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How to Pay for Ecosystem Services?

Mark Smith, IUCN

Can Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) viably finance management of river basins and coastal environments? What steps are needed to develop PES schemes? What experiences and lessons have been learned from attempts to develop PES in the real world? These are some of the questions examined at the IUCN-GEF IW:LEARN workshop on Designing Payment Schemes for Ecosystem Services, held April 3-5 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Multilateral development projects increasingly aspire to develop PES as a mechanism to sustainably finance ecosystem-based management of natural resources. These initiatives reflect a relatively young body of experience from around the world, which has so far mainly focused on the application of the PES concept to watershed management. Interest in developing PES schemes for coastal and marine environments is growing, including ways to link river basins and downstream marine ecosystems.

The workshop was attended by more than 40 people, from as far afield as Samoa and India. Participants represented GEF International Waters projects and partners from governments and NGOs. Some

Traversing the Waters of Stakeholder Engagement

*Bach Phuong Lien, Adriana Miljkovic,
Tranh H.V Pham and Dann Sklarew*

From the banks of the Mekong River to the shores of the Yellow Sea, GEF project representatives and their partners in East Asia and the South Pacific recently gathered for a regional workshop, "Stakeholder Engagement in International Waters Management," in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 2-4 April 2008. One noted their common challenge: The "participatory approach in water management is very complicated, especially in transboundary river basin[s]."

Among peers and global experts, workshop members thus sought practical guidance on:

- ◆ How stakeholder involvement can benefit water governance;
- ◆ Tools and techniques for encouraging participation;
- ◆ Developing and implementing Stakeholder Involvement Plans (SIPs);
- ◆ Tools and methods for stakeholder identification and analysis;
- ◆ Providing access to information and strategic communication;
- ◆ Gender mainstreaming;
- ◆ Legal and institutional frameworks for participation; and
- ◆ Participatory monitoring and evaluation, as well as indicators of participation.

Eight sessions addressed many of these aspects of stakeholder involvement.

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI)'s Carl Bruch opened by introducing participants to principles of stakeholder engagement, including Transparency, Inclusiveness, Accountability, Respect, and Equity. He also emphasized the challenges of selecting the

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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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Conference Integrates Ocean Management and Climate Change

Miriam Balgos, Global Forum on Oceans

At the front line of climate change, ocean and coastal managers urgently must incorporate adaptation. They need new tools to assess vulnerability and planning to alter coastal development. Given the high cost of inaction, they will have to make difficult choices in what in many cases will be “no win” situations. These are among key conclusions of the Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, held in Hanoi, Vietnam this past April.

For the first time, a concerted global effort was made to integrate oceans policy with climate change. Over 400 representatives from 71 nations also assessed the progress to date (or lack thereof) on the global oceans WSSD targets (see adjacent box) related to marine biodiversity; fish stock restoration; networks of marine protected areas; and ecosystem-based management (EBM) and integrated ocean and coastal management (ICM).

An extensive preparatory process mobilized 12 multinational Working Groups to develop policy analyses and specific policy recommendations on these issues as well as several others, such as small island developing states (SIDS), freshwater-marine linkages and capacity development. Resulting Policy Briefs prepared are available on the GOC2008 website (see box below).

Drastic changes in the marine environment are already occurring, and at a much more rapid pace than anticipated. The Fourth Global Conference provided a chance to catalyze the global policy changes needed to prevent human suffering and further degradation of the oceans, and to successfully adapt to the effects of a changing climate.

The conference was hosted by the Government of Vietnam and organized by the GEF-Funded Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands. Since 2001, the Global Forum has played a key role in tracking the implementation of global goals and targets on oceans, issuing policy analyses and periodic report cards on these issues, and organizing global conferences.

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LME Conference Heralds Global Progress, Challenges

Edited by Mick O'Toole, Benguela Current LME

“I have been impressed with the achievements of the LMEs in developing science based management and better ocean governance,” asserted Dr. Jilan Su, a Chinese Ocean official at the recent Second Global Conference on LMEs. At present, 110 developing countries are engaged in LME projects, along with five UN lead agencies, the GEF and the World Bank. The countries are supported with US\$1.2 billion dollars in financial assistance to 16 LME projects. All are moving towards global WSSD targets for oceans (see text box).

“The Guinea Current and Benguela Current LME's are setting pace for the rest of the world, with the northern hemisphere now in a position to learn from the south,” remarked Dr. Antonio Díaz de León Coral (SEMARNAT, Mexico). Ministers in these regions have established innovative ecosystem-based commissions to oversee the recovery, development and sustainability of LME goods and services. Still, there is much to be done.

WSSD 2002 OCEAN TARGETS

- a) Introducing an ecosystem approach to marine resource assessment and management by 2010;
- b) Maintaining and restoring fish stocks to maximum sustainable yield levels by 2015,
- c) Achieving substantial reductions in land-based sources of pollution,
- d) Designating a network of marine protected areas by 2012.

The conference expressed concern over an accelerated increase in surface water temperatures during the past 25 years across almost all of the LMEs studied. Also of concern: over-enrichment in coastal waters of East Asian LMEs, coincident with population increases in jellyfish. In many northern temperate LMEs, major regime shifts in LMEs are also affecting living marine resources.

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SCS Project Shares Experience via Mayors' Roundtable

Christopher Paterson, South China Sea Project

The UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project convened the Third Mayors' Round-Table and Third Regional Scientific Conference in Bangkok, Thailand from the 26th-30th November 2007. These events provided an opportunity for Mayors, Local Government Officials, and Habitat Demonstration Site managers to share experiences and examples of good practice in the implementation of demonstration site activities, and to learn from science at the regional level for improved environmental management at the site level. Members of the project network also collegially reviewed the project's overall progress, accomplishments and outputs to date, and shared their respective implementation experiences, concerns and issues.



A total of 68 individuals participated in the Third Mayors' Round-Table. On day one, a total of 22 poster presentations and nine oral presentations focused on the status and achievements of the habitat demonstration sites; and the development of new management models and methods for habitat and land-based pollution management.

Prof. Huang Zhengguang reports on impacts --Photo courtesy Chris Paterson

An NGO Forum facilitated by the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) was convened in conjunction with the event. National Coordinators of the SGP, NGO representatives from the National Small Grants Committees, the SGP Programme Specialist, and PCU staff jointly explored ways in which SGP support for community groups could contribute to the implementation of the revised Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea.

The second day joined the National SGP Coordinators, NGO representatives, the Mayors, provincial government officials, and demonstration site managers to consider matters relating to: community involvement in SAP implementation; stakeholder participation in fisheries and habitat

Experience Note: Revising a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis

In the course of adaptive management how should an International Waters partnership effectively revise and update its transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA)? The latest GEF IW Experience Note (2008-03) presents how this issue was addressed by the GEF-supported Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project (BSERP). Since the Black Sea was the first

GEF IW project ever to develop a TDA (1996), it's no surprise that BSERP is also the first to return a complete TDA revision. This Note offers pragmatic lessons to other projects seeking to update and revise TDAs to reflect

changing environmental conditions and overcoming the difficulties of doing so.

The Black Sea's original TDA didn't contain many elements which later became standard. Although well presented, it was clear that much of the environmental data/information was wanting. The updated TDA fulfills key GEF good practice in terms of its content, including causal chains, governance, socio-economic, stakeholders and hot-spots analyses, together with the identification and examination of major transboundary problems.

Early on in the TDA production process, it was decided that data from the six Black Sea countries should be analyzed in the same way. Different methods of assessment usually produce different results, so even if there were differences of opinion over the methods used, individual countries would be less likely to object if their data presented an overall optimistic/pessimistic picture than other countries.

The complexity of the contracting and reporting

Lake Baikal Joins GEF Portfolio

Lake Baikal is the oldest and deepest lake in the world, containing fully 20% of the liquid freshwater on Earth's surface. It is also potentially the site of one the newest GEF International Waters projects, with a concept approved at the April Council Meeting. The lake's Integrated Basin Management project will develop the institutional frameworks to reduce lake contamination by persistent toxic substances and nutrient over-enrichment. The resulting transboundary regime offers the promise of a wealth of transferable experience on a variety of issues related to implementing regional integrated water resource management (IWRM).

The Lake Baikal project features a partnership of the two basin governments, the Russian Federation and Mongolia, supported by a host of donors. Pledged donor contributions include: a \$3.035 million grant from the GEF (implemented by UNDP), \$5.4 million from participating governments and \$350,000 from the private sector, NGOs, and other sources.

Currently under development through a project preparation grant, the project is intended to assist national partners to revitalize joint efforts, harmonize policies, and facilitate the establishment of an effective transboundary IWRM regime to reduce land-based sources of contamination and ensure the sustainable use of the vast, ancient and unique fresh water reservoir.

Project components include:

1. Transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) for the Baikal Lake Basin (BLB)
2. Development and endorsement of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP), including basin-wide IWRM Plan
3. Strengthening the regional cooperation mechanisms between Russia and Mongolia
4. Building institutional capacities for the national level SAP implementation and promotion of integrated planning and management framework for BLB



The "Shaman Rock" at Lake Baikal. --Photo courtesy WikiCommons

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process took a long time to organise. In total, some 50 contracts (with distinct Terms of Reference) produced more than 220 deliverables (data tables and reports). Each required quality assurance and completeness review. As a result of this complexity, delays were encountered almost the whole way through data compilation and production of the TDA.

As many regional personnel as possible were involved in drafting the TDA, both to increase access to national data and to improve buy-in to the process and the final document itself. The flexibility and dedication of individual contributors was thus a major boon to its eventual completion.

This Note offers a broad scope of analysis and lessons-learned on how to go about revising and updating a TDA. Key lessons cover investment and staff-time required, scope and context, external editors, and methodologies on how to successfully implement the activity. Poignant lessons: Always try to present a regional perspective, rather than a series of national views — aim to analyze data from different countries in the same manner. Second, where supporting information or data are absent or weak, ensure that expert opinion is regionally accepted, or that differences in opinion are expressed. Third, look carefully at the Project Implementation Plan to ensure that other project activities are optimally designed to provide useable input into the TDA, e.g. the compilation of emissions inventories, governance analyses and agricultural assessments. Finally, it is important to have a vision of what a TDA should contain, its likely structure and key messages. However, be prepared adjust this vision to changing inputs and data availability.

For more information on the BSERP and its activities (and the TDA), please visit its website at <http://www.bserp.org>. For more information on the TDA revision, please contact the BSERP Lead Scientist, Bill Parr (dr.bill.parr@btinternet.com). To download the Note, please visit <http://www.iwlearn.net/experience>.

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brought perspectives from freshwater systems, others from marine ecosystems. All brought an interest in understanding the principles behind PES and practical approaches to designing and implementing workable payment schemes.

A series of case studies were presented from around the world, with specific regional examples from China, the Philippines, India and Vietnam. Illustrated PES applications ranged from

user fees in parks or Marine Protected Areas, to payments by hydropower companies to upstream land-users to reduce erosion, and implementation of sea-use rights to address excessive use of marine resources. Common to all schemes were site-specific challenges requiring a pragmatic approach, the building of trust, and sound monitoring to ensure a constant flow of funds to clearly identified beneficiaries.

Arlene Amponin from the Philippines gave a Manila Bay area example of how understanding the opportunity costs for environmental services can help in designing market-based incentives for conservation. She explained, "Only a few mangroves are left in the reclamation area, so property developers and the public reclamation authority computed commercial value of land in coastal lagoons. This allowed us to estimate the opportunity cost of protecting mangroves and coastal habitats from clearing and development. We tried to do resource valuation with mangroves, migratory birds, and endangered species in the area. We compared the commercial value to the value of mangroves." With this knowledge, it was possible to convince the authorities that conservation of mangroves and the ecosystem services they provide, for example to fisheries, will benefit from finding ways of offsetting these opportunity costs.

Chetan Agarwal, of Winrock International India, described a PES scheme from a small watershed where soil erosion is damaging downstream livelihoods. Villagers downstream looked at what sedimentation in the river was costing them and decided that the best thing was to help pay for soil conservation upstream. So upstream and downstream villagers negotiated a deal. They decided not to pay with cash, but with tree saplings. As Chetan explained, "Obviously the benefit of saplings is that they don't have to buy them.

The second benefit is that when the saplings grow, they'll become trees and upstream villagers will get other benefits."

It is clear that developing payment schemes does not depend only on pure economics. There need to be laws and institutions in place that make provision for and have capacity for effectively facilitating transactions. Negotiation between providers of ecosystems services and buyers is also a key. To explore the issues that arise in PES negotiations, participants engaged in a lively role-play scenario. They negotiated agreements among stakeholders, including the electrical engineer Mr. Ki Lo Wat and the politician Mme. Vo Tfa Mi, in efforts to increase benefits and equity among upstream and downstream actors. It was evident through this exercise that in addition to creating incentives, well-designed PES schemes can open dialogue over how to better manage ecosystem services and improve benefit sharing in watersheds and marine and coastal ecosystems.



Workshop participants --Photo courtesy IUCN.

A report from the workshop will be released by IUCN and the GEF this summer whilst all presentations from the workshop are posted to the event page at http://www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/events. For more information on PES and similar topics, please contact James Oliver (james.oliver@iucn.org) or Mark Smith (mark.smith@iucn.org).

Engagement Workshop continued from page 1

most contextually appropriate public engagement practices along a continuum, ranging from Informing to Consulting to Involving through to Collaborating and even Empowering stakeholders.

Dr. Vo Si Tuan, representing the UNEP/GEF South China Sea project, illustrated these challenges. Each SCS demonstration site had its particular concerns. However, a common solution emerged: Involving managers and local people together to deal with respective problems. This was achieved in various ways and throughout different stages, from the design and planning to the implementation of the project. The Belitung Coral Reef demonstration, for instance, exemplified how the experiences and practices of traditional local knowledge could be integrated into the development of a management plan for coral reefs and related resources.

Dr. Dann Sklarew, Director of GEF IW:LEARN, presented how GEF and others' expectations for public involvement can be integrated into multi-country Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). The stakeholder involvement plan process was overlaid onto the GEF IW project cycle in order for participants to examine which set of public involvement tools and techniques from the workshop's Handbook might be most appropriate and effective at each phase of the project cycle.

The workshop then divided into parallel teams for an exercise in Stakeholder Identification and Analysis (SHIA). One team organized stakeholders by organizational scale (local, regional and national), while the other took a more free form approach. In subsequent discussion, participants examined the challenges of creating comprehensive lists of stakeholder groups, identifying acceptable representatives from each group, and maintaining consistency of representation over time. Participants' evaluations indicated SHIA was the topic about which they learned the most over the course of the

workshop.

It is crucial that stakeholder involvement plans (SHIPs) consider means to institutionalize participation from the outset, building capacity over time. As detailed in the on-line workshop summary (see URL in box below), IW projects operate within both national and international frameworks for participation. Projects have also incorporated development of these frameworks within the project itself, which contributes to post-project sustainability. In 2004, the Lake Ohrid project in Europe began integrating Watershed Committees, which include a civil society representative from each country and are further supported by a technical Secretariat, with specific duties for outreach and public awareness-raising. The South China Sea and Caribbean Sea project representatives provided additional poignant examples for institutionalizing participation.

While knowledge of a legal framework is rare in most developing countries, regulations on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) often incorporate elements of public participation. However, an "implementation gap" remains visible, between the existing governmental regulations on the one hand and their practical and local application on the other hand.

Due to lack of information, affected communities often don't have the opportunity to contribute to developing pertinent legislation and institutions. Participants proposed improving communication habits between levels of authorities and between the authorities and the people. Since not all stakeholders are able to fully understand technical issues, project information also needs to simplify issues as necessary to facilitate stakeholders' decisions and actions. (This effort may be further constrained by inadequate access to relevant data and information.) Monitoring boards and conflict resolution frameworks were also suggested as important in the transboundary context.

Dr. Nguyen Tung Phong (VIWRR) presented the different scales for institutionalizing participation (from family to global level) and different elements of the process (elaborating a strategy, identifying suitable methods, institutionalization of participatory strategies). Furthermore, any strategy for promoting participation must take into account the role of the individual, organisations, government, NGOs, private sector, and community, while simultaneously

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.

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Please contact Biliana Cicin-Sain (biliana@udel.edu) or Miriam Balgos (miriam@udel.edu)

Coverage of the Global Conference is available at the following sites:

- ◆ The Global Forum, the World Ocean Network, and the World Ocean Observatory have created a special GOC2008 website (<http://www.thew2o.net/goc2008/goc2008.htm>) and YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/globaloceans2008>) to inform audiences across the world about the work of the Global Forum.
- ◆ The International Institute for Sustainable Development – Reporting Services (IISDRS) provided the Conference proceedings. Their report is available in html and pdf formats at the IISDRS website (<http://www.iisd.ca>).

Mayors' Roundtable continued from page 3

management, as part of the development of a regional system of fisheries *refugia*; and the use of economic valuation as a tool for decision making.

The Third Regional Scientific Conference was organised over three days around four thematic issues: national level benefits and achievements; local level benefits and achievements; sound science for environmental management of the South China Sea; and toward successful implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). More than 160 project focal points, regional experts, Governors, representatives of the UN and other organizations, and others noted above, participated.

Thirty-two presentations were delivered during the course of the meeting. A total of three hours of plenary discussion also facilitated a high level of interaction between participants on topics including: the benefits, achievements, and weaknesses of the South China Sea Project at national and local levels; the targets and estimated costs and benefits of the Strategic Action Programme; future directions for information and data management; the similarities and differences of MPAs and fisheries *refugia*; and SAP implementation, including possible mechanisms for regional cooperation.

*South China Sea Project and GEF Small Grants
Programme Partnership*

The UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project and the GEF SGP launched a partnership to promote community involvement in support of the implementation of the regional SAP during the closing session of the Regional Scientific

Conference. The partnership aims to build the capacity of NGOs, community-based organisations, and coastal communities to implement the SAP. This should facilitate the effective exchange of information between and among partners at local, national and regional levels.

Multi-Media Outputs

The Multi-Media Unit of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) provided technical support to the conference by producing daily video highlights of the event. Interviews were conducted with presenters and other members of the project network on a range of topics relating to the implementation of project activities, lessons learned, and future challenges. The video highlights were presented at regular intervals during the conference and uploaded to the project website daily, along with copies of all presentations, meeting photographs, and lists of participants. This was aimed at sharing outputs from the events with staff of all Focal Ministries, Specialized Executing Agencies, Local Governments, and the broader GEF International Waters community.

The UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project is a large multi-lateral, intergovernmental project addressing the degradation and loss of habitats, the over-exploitation of fish stocks, and land-based pollution in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand. Key project activities have included the establishment and operation of a network of 22 habitat demonstration sites, development of a regional system of fisheries *refugia* for priority fish stocks, and land-based pollution pilot projects and modelling activities.

The meetings benefited greatly from the participation of the then Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Dr. Shafqat Kakakhel, the International Waters Senior Advisor of the GEF Secretariat, Dr. Alfred Duda, and the Special Advisor to SEAFDEC, Dr. Yasuhisa Kato. The Project Co-ordinating Unit extends sincere thanks to all participants for their excellent contributions to these two events. A special thanks is extended to SEAFDEC for their tireless support in the production of daily video highlights of the events.

All multi-media outputs from the events can be accessed by visiting - <http://www.unepscs.org/meetings.html>. A CD containing highlights from the events has also been produced by the Project Co-ordinating Unit and can be obtained by visiting - <http://www.unepscs.org/cd-dvd/>. For further information please contact Chris Paterson (patersonc@un.org).

LME Progress continued from page 2

For the LME approach to succeed, German Prof. Gotthilf Hempel stressed the need to link three essentials: (a) Much funds, (b) Good Governance, and (c) Good Science. GEF funding has catalyzed World Bank co-financing to support these nations building of capacity to advance the LME approach and train the next generation of scientists and managers. Participating nations are also taking positive steps in applying the precautionary principle to reduce fishing effort on depleted stocks through joint surveys. GEF LME projects are collecting vital information on LME productivity, fish and fisheries, and pollution and ecosystem health.

Appropriate governance and management measures should help them turn the corner to make substantial gains in advancing the global effort to restore degraded habitats, reduce pollution and nitrogen over-enrichment, and achieve equitable allocation of the sustainable fishery resources for industrial, artisanal, and other legitimate stakeholder interests. To realize these goals, the conference called on donor institutions to double their allocations to LME projects towards the consolidation of the LME approach. Delegates urged all concerned countries to take advantage of parallel funding from institutions including the G8, EU, African Union, APEC and regional development banks. Improved valuations of LME goods and services were also recognized as a high priority need for supporting self-financing of LME projects.

Dr. Renée Sauve, a Canadian fisheries official, further advised delegates to market the value of the LME approach, "Strive to communicate the LME successes internationally ... to securing future funding." Her appeal to forge cross-sectoral partnerships was echoed by others, such as Mr. Chika Ukwé of UNIDO, who promoted broad stakeholder involvement.

Progress toward greater socioeconomic benefits from the estimated \$12.6 trillion in annual LME goods and services to the world economy cannot be done alone. Integration, coordination and cooperation are required in order to succeed. The next decade will focus on strengthening regional LME alliances around the globe, following the examples of the 7-project African LME Alliance (ALMEA) that circumnavigates Africa, and the East Asian Seas LME Alliance (EASLMEA) forming among 5 East Asian LME projects. The global network of LME initiatives is improving marine resource recovery, development and sustainability.

Keynote speakers provided expert perspective on the present state of LMEs globally and the challenges facing sustainable ocean governance. Of particular note were the need to secure substantial funding to rebuild coastal fisheries, restore degraded habitats, and address the threats posed by climate change. Other topics explored included: monitoring and LME health assessment; practical implementation of LME programs; and socio-economics, valuation and governance.

The conference was organized in Qingdao, China, last September by Dr. Ken Sherman (NOAA) and Prof. Qisheng Tang (Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute). International experts from five continents joined LME managers from the Baltic, Barents, Norwegian and Yellow seas around Eurasia and the Benguela, Canary and Guinea currents along western Africa.

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5. Demonstration of innovative IWRM techniques and sustainable approaches to BLB management
6. Public awareness, consultation and coordination mechanisms for the successful SAP implementation, capture and transfer of knowledge and best practices

Over 25 million years old, Lake Baikal is situated in eastern Siberia in the Russian Federation, near its border with Mongolia 1,637 m. Over 1600 m deep, the lake supports diverse and highly endemic flora and fauna. The BLB is a transboundary resource extending over a 500,000 km² area shared between Russia and Mongolia, with over 300 tributary rivers and streams.

Ongoing pressure to expand the economy in both countries is driving the largely uncontrolled expansion of industrial, agricultural and urban developments within the watershed on both sides of the border. These developments have increased the volume and variety of artificial inputs, including nutrients and persistent toxic substances. While the lake waters remain relatively clean (due to mixing and the sheer volume of the lake) localized contamination and eutrophication events have reportedly increased, particularly within certain heavily impacted areas. Continuation of this pressure on the watershed has serious implications for the local indigenous population and the unique wildlife supported by this ancient, majestic and until recently pristine lacustrine ecosystem.

For more information on the UNDP-implemented GEF Lake Baikal project, please contact Vladimir Mamaev (vladimir.mamaev@undp.org).

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considering the different methods that may be used in each step. Optimal institutions for promoting participation depends on factors such as planning stage, resources and existing institutional capacity.

Participants found this frameworks discussion to be the second most informative topic of the workshop.

The workshop's penultimate session focussed on crosscutting issues of stakeholder engagement in international water management, e.g.:

- ◆ Representivity
- ◆ Gender Mainstreaming
- ◆ Operational Scale
- ◆ Resources and sustainability

Dr. Sklarew then introduced the concept of participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E). This entails ongoing consultations with stakeholders to determine what needs monitoring; considers and incorporates various perspectives; and then interprets and applies the learning from M&E. A new type of project indicator was also introduced which reports on the catalytic impacts from GEF interventions.

Participants concluded by discussing appropriate indicators for good monitoring and evaluating participation itself. Although the workshop handbook offered tools for M&E, the effective application of these tools was a concern. Issues of disparities were raised: in partner nations' overall capacity as well as in their specific will to carry out the monitoring and evaluation process itself.

In written workshop evaluations, several participants noted the challenges of "strategically integrating these tools and techniques" into overall project decision-making and implementation. Upon returning to office, they aim to "implement stakeholder involvement at the governance level" and incorporate "more consideration of participation ... in developing and implementing projects." One expects to "incorporate (suitable)

relevant stakeholders. Encourage them to [be] actively involve[d] in [the] project." Another asserted, "I'll apply the [stakeholder] analysis tools by adapting the matrix to my programme." Finally, they commonly recognized the overall importance of "sustainability of ... stakeholder involvement by ownership, co-management legitimacy."

One participant's conclusions could potentially apply to all present: "We could see the impact of the workshop in the next 2 years; if my institution has involved a stakeholder involvement or not." In short, this workshop's success will depend on its ultimate impact on participatory processes of represented institutions.

This workshop was organized and co-sponsored by GEF IW:LEARN, ELI, the World Bank Institute (WBI), Coca-Cola Company and, as an excellent local host, the Vietnamese Institute for Water Resources Research (VIWRR). UNDP and UNEP provided additional support to help ensure the workshop's success.

Materials related to this workshop's inputs and outputs can be found under the "Hanoi" link at <http://www.iwlearn.net/participation>. This includes upcoming final release of ELI's Handbook on Public Participation in International Waters Management. For more information on the substance of the workshop, please contact Mr. Carl Bruch (bruch@eli.org), Dr. Nguyen Tong Phone (phongicd@gmail.com) or Dr. Dann Sklarew (dann@iwlearn.org).



At sea in Halong Bay --Photo courtesy Dann Sklarew

GEF IW:LEARN's IT Workshop for the Latin America and Caribbean Region

Khristine R. Custodio, UNEP-GEF IW:LEARN

How do you keep information flowing within a diverse portfolio of GEF International Waters projects? What happens to the wealth of knowledge, information and data accumulated by projects after they finish? How do you ensure that their data and information are made available to future projects? These concerns, common to most IW projects, were examined during the latest GEF IW:LEARN Information Technology (IT) Workshop.

The IT Workshop, organized by GEF IW:LEARN in partnership with the Centre for Environmental Studies of Florida Atlantic University (CES/FAU), was held from June 2-6 in Boca Raton. The workshop provided an opportunity for projects to evaluate and gain skills in customizing and managing an IW:LEARN Toolkit-based website.

A diverse range of topics were discussed at the workshop, informed by perspectives of participants of different backgrounds, including IT, technical operations, outreach and communications, and project management. Discussions extended beyond learning how to use the Toolkit to touch on common knowledge management issues facing IW projects. For example, the challenge of having few project staff to attend to multiple tasks; ownership issues concerning the amassed information of a project when several institutions and countries are involved; and what happens with all the information when a project comes to an end.

Whereas the IT Workshop focused on implementing the Toolkit, it also addressed GIS data visualization and issues of interest to participants. Participants learned how the Toolkit can benefit their projects. Demonstrations and hands-on activities included managing files and information, online editing, using collaborative tools, developing an intranet, and implementing RSS syndication to disseminate

project information.

Syndication through RSS enables stakeholders and website managers to automatically monitor multiple websites. This important function of the Toolkit promotes information sharing and allows users to more easily keep abreast of new news, events and other content generated across the GEF IW community.



Early evening outdoor training session. --Photo courtesy Sean Khan

The demonstration on data visualization, focused on the geospatial component of the Toolkit, which now also adopts the open source Geonetwork software; a product collaboratively developed and implemented by various UN agencies, UNEP and other organizations. This captured the participants' interest as it offers functionality for incorporating maps and geographic-related data and information into project websites.

The archiving of project data and information was highlighted as an option for projects that are nearing closure or those requiring an online document repository. GEF IW:LEARN offers archiving services so that the legacy of projects is ensured beyond their date of completion.

Additional presentations were given by staff of the Center for Environmental Studies (CES) of Florida Atlantic University. Drs. Leonard Berry (Director) and Lakhdar Boukerro (Research Programs Coordinator) highlighted the history of the institute and the diverse range of activities that address current environmental issues both in the USA and overseas. Shane Forsythe (CES IT Specialist) gave an interesting talk on the current buzzword on the World Wide Web -- Web 2.0. He described the transformation of the WWW into a more

Upcoming Events

24 Jun. 2008 - 28 Jun. 2008

GROUNDWATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Kampala, Uganda

<http://www.gwclim.org/>

02 Jul. 2008 - 03 Jul. 2008

International Conference on Flood Recovery Innovation and Response

London, United Kingdom

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/friar08/index.html>

07 Jul. 2008 - 11 Jul. 2008

11th INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF SYMPOSIUM

Ft. Lauderdale, FL, USA

http://www.icriforum.org/event_detail.cfm?CID=226

25 Nov. 2008 - 29. Nov. 2008

THE SOUTH CHINA SEA: SUSTAINING OCEAN PRODUCTIVITIES, MARITIME COMMUNITIES AND THE CLIMATE

Kuantan, Malaysia

<http://ioes.um.edu.my/scs2008/scs2008.html>

01 Sep. 2008 - 04 Sep. 2008

13th WORLD WATER CONGRESS

Montpellier, France

<http://www.worldwatercongress2008.org>

06 Oct. 2008 - 12 Oct. 2008

IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

Barcelona, Spain

<http://www.iucn.org>

06. Oct 2008 - 10 Oct. 2008

17th ANNUAL CARIBBEAN WATER & WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Montego Bay, Jamaica

<http://www.cwwa.net/>

15 Oct. 2008 - 18 Oct. 2008

IV INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS MANAGEMENT

Thessaloniki, Greece

<http://www.igrac.nl/publications/288>

15 Mar. 2009 - 22 Mar. 2009

5th WORLD WATER FORUM

Istanbul, Turkey

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org>

LAC Toolkit Training continued from page 10

collaborative platform and how Web 2.0 stimulates innovation through exciting new applications. For development organizations, Web 2.0 technologies allow for greater interaction among users.

The final day of the five-day workshop ended with a visit to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Staff from SFWMD described the multifaceted challenges they face in managing water resources and the natural environment in South Florida, and the strategies and approaches they adopt which emphasize the importance of technology. Read more about the SFWMD field trip from Donna Spencer of the GEF-IWCAM Project Newsletter, <http://www.iwcam.org/information/newsletters/caribbean-waterways-newsletter-of-the-gef-iwcam-project-volume-2-issue-2-june-2008-english/view>.

More projects showed interest in using GEF IW:LEARN's Toolkit and services. At the end of the workshop, the Gulf of Honduras Project decided to join IW:LEARN's community of Toolkit users, following another project from the LAC region, the Guarani Aquifer Project. Other participants will apply their new skills to develop existing Plone-based websites as well as managing their information resources.

Present at the workshop were representatives from: Environmental Protection and Maritime Transport Pollution Control of the Gulf of Honduras (GOHP) <http://www.cocatram.org.ni/gulfofhonduras>; Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management in Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean (IWCAM) <http://www.iwcam.org>, Integrated watershed Management Practices for the Pantanal and Upper Paraguay River Basin Project <http://www.ana.gov.br/gefap>, Integrated Water Resources Management of the Sao Francisco River Basin and Its Coastal Zone <http://www.ana.gov.br/gefsf>, Implementation of the Strategic Action Program for the Binational Basin of the Bermejo River <http://www.cobinabe.org>, Regional Programme of Action and Demonstration of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for Malaria Vector Control in Mexico and Central America <http://www.paho.org/english/ad/sde/ddt-home.htm>, Reducing Pesticide Runoff to the Caribbean Sea (REPCar) <http://www.cep.unep.org/repcar>, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Integrated Management of the Guarani Aquifer <http://www.sg-guarani.org> and DELTAmerica <http://conosur.rirh.net>.



2008 IW:LEARN ACTIVITIES PLANNED

IW EVENTS/TRAININGS

- ◆ GEF Lessons session at 11th International Coral Reef Symposium (in Ft. Lauderdale, FL; with ReefBase and the World Bank)
- ◆ Begin IW:LEARN Terminal Evaluation
- ◆ Stakeholder Exchange: Orange-Senqu and Okavango River basins to ICPDR (in Austria; with GTZ and ICPDR)
- ◆ Targeted Workshop on IWRM Planning in SE Europe (in SE Europe; with GWP-Med and EU)
- ◆ Refine IW:LEARN Sustainability Plan with Stakeholders

IW OUTREACH

- ◆ Publish Public Participation Handbook
- ◆ Produce LME video in more UN languages
- ◆ Publish at least twelve IW Experience Notes
- ◆ Publish E-Bulletin and Bridges newsletters
- ◆ All structured learning activity outputs will be posted to www.iwlearn.net

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS 2008Q1

- ✓ LAC Regional Workshop on Environmental Flows (in Foz de Iguacu; with IUCN and Itaipu Binacional)
- ✓ Asia-Pacific Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement in IW Management (in Hanoi; with ELI)
- ✓ Payment for Ecosystems Workshop (in Hanoi; with IUCN)
- ✓ Targeted Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement in SE Europe (in SE Europe; with GWP-Med and EU)
- ✓ 2nd Pan-Africa TWRM Workshop on Public Participation (in Maseru, Lesotho; with ELI, InWEnt and ACWR)
- ✓ Athens Declaration-Petersberg Process II - South-eastern European Public Participation Roundtable (in Sofia; with GWP-Med, World Bank, Germany and Greece)
- ✓ Stakeholder Exchange: Okavango River Basin to Brazil Water Agency (in Brazil; with FAO, UNDP, ANA)
- ✓ Stakeholder Exchange: Bulgaria Wetlands to ICPDR and Dona-Auen National Park (in Austria)

News from the IW Community

GEF Projects Adopting the IW:LEARN Toolkit

The following projects have launched sites utilizing the IW:LEARN Website Toolkit:

Africa Governance Process: <http://africa.iwlearn.org>
 Caribbean IWCAM: <http://www.iwcam.org>
 Dinaric Karst Aquifer: <http://dinaric.iwlearn.org>
 Dnipro River: <http://dnipro-gef.net>
 East Asian Seas: <http://www.pemsea.org>
 Guarani Aquifer: <http://guarani.iwlearn.org>
 Hai River: <http://hai.iwlearn.org>
 Iullemeden Aquifer: <http://iullemeden.iwlearn.org>
 Kura-Aras River: <http://kura-aras.iwlearn.org>
 Lake Baikal: <http://baikai.iwlearn.org>
 Lake Chad: <http://www.lakechadbasin.net>
 Liaoning Cities: <http://liaoning.iwlearn.org>
 Livestock Waste: <http://lwmea.org>
 Ningbo Wetlands: <http://ningbo.iwlearn.org>
 NW Sahara Aquifer: <http://nwsas.iwlearn.org>
 Pacific IWRM: <http://gefwpw.iwlearn.org>
 Prespa Park: <http://prespa.iwlearn.org>
 Shandong Environment: <http://shandong.iwlearn.org>
 Southwest Indian Ocean: <http://swiofp.iwlearn.org>
 Volta River: <http://gef-volta.iwlearn.org>
 Yellow Sea Partnership: <http://partnership.iwlearn.org>
 Western Indian Ocean: <http://www.wiolab.org>

IW:LEARN Toolkit

The Toolkit is a "ready to use" software package designed to support GEF International Waters projects in developing a dynamic website and seeks to build on efforts to strengthen information sharing within the GEF IW community. To learn more about the Toolkit, visit www.iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit

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

For more information:

<http://www.iwlearn.net>, Email: info@iwlearn.org

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