

REFERRAL SERVICE (HELP DESK)

GEF IW:LEARN functions as knowledge-sharing and exchange hub to facilitate experiential learning and address issues faced by one project which may have been resolved by another (or outside the GEF IW community). In addition, GEF IW:LEARN's electronic forums serve as a vehicle for IW job postings and requests for assistance.

GEF AGENCY SUPPORT TO TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS LEARNING

GEF IW:LEARN also aids in linking and sharing GEF Agencies' internal IW learning and knowledge management efforts across agencies and focal areas, so that a coherent whole may be more beneficial than the sum of its parts in advancing GEF strategic objectives. Coordination among focal areas in South-to-South learning is increasingly needed to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and adapt to climate

PROJECT STRUCTURE & PARTNERS

GEF IW:LEARN's Partners currently include:

The Global Environment Facility, UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme, Asian Development Bank, UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization, World Bank Institute, UN Economic Commission for Europe, UN Institute for Training and Research, the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the Australia Agency for International Development the Global Water Partnership, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Capacity Building International - Germany, the Coral Triangle Initiative, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts & Islands, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, Seychelles - Sea Level Rise Foundation, the Global Environment and Technology Foundation, Environmental Law Institute, World Fish Centre, Gender Water Alliance, EcoAfrica, Cap-Net, University of Rhode Island

Plus the 147 countries participating in GEF IW projects.

HOW TO ACCESS IW:LEARN SERVICES

For contact and further information:

Email: info@iwlearn.org

Visit <http://www.iwlearn.net>

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BRIEF HISTORY OF GEF IW:LEARN

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.



The Global Environment Facility International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN)

In partnership with



WHAT IS IT?

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.

MISSION

The global development objective of GEF IW:LEARN is to strengthen Transboundary Waters Management (TWM) by facilitating learning and information sharing among GEF stakeholders.

GEF IW:LEARN SERVICES

GEF IW:LEARN offers a suite of services to GEF IW projects and partners in order to fulfill its mission:

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT:

WWW.IWLEARN.NET

iwlearn.net is a content management system supporting knowledge sharing in the GEF IW portfolio. It contains project-related information, contacts, documents (e.g. case studies, Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses, Strategic Action Programmes), events and news syndication feeds. Services like vacancy announcements, blogs, email lists and IW project website archiving are provided.. Digital outputs from GEF IW Conferences, guidance materials and products of GEF IW:LEARN or water-related learning are freely available.

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

www.iwlearn.net/iwc2007, [iwc2005](http://www.iwlearn.net/iwc2005), [iwc2002](http://www.iwlearn.net/iwc2002)

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.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

www.iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit

Training and technical support help projects create or upgrade websites to improve information management. Services include website development, hosting, establishment, facilitation, use of the GEF IW:LEARN website toolkit, and specialized assistance in developing and deploying tools such as GIS and visual data or graphics.

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

EXCHANGES/STUDY TOURS

www.iwlearn.net/exchange

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

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.

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.

OUTREACH: INFORMATION CAPTURE, SYNTHESIS, DISSEMINATION

www.iwlearn.net/experience &

www.iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit/e-bulletin

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).

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.

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.

