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## GEF Partners Confront Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution

From the Black Sea to the Caribbean to the Mediterranean to the Seas of East Asia, GEF partners offer valuable insights for global efforts to address the inter-linkages between freshwater and the coastal environment. They shared these perspectives across a variety of sessions at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intergovernmental Review (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities in Beijing last October.

Two GEF Strategic Partnerships – Danube-Black Sea and East Asian Seas – launched IGR-2 Partnership Day. Together, they showed 57 attendees how GEF is working at multiple scales of governance to address land-based sources of marine pollution.

Stefan Nicolau provided an excellent illustration from Romania, an important non-point source contributor to Danube River pollution. Romania's Agricultural Pollution Control Project developed local-level grants for organic farming, new manure management infrastructure, farmer training, soil and water quality monitoring, and a host of other capacity-building services at household, community and provincial levels. Pertinent to other GPA initiatives, key success factors for his project included:

- ◆ Strong support from the central coordinating

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## Using Economic Valuation to Improve River Basin Decision-making

Mark Smith, IUCN Water and Nature Initiative

"If we are serious about conserving ecosystems, we must understand and manage their economic values," said Dr. Frank Vorhies, launching GEF IW:LEARN's regional workshop on economic valuation and water-related decisions in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. From November 6-8 2006, 30 participants debated what this means for the diverse challenges of river basin management and the promise that economic valuation may hold as a tool for improving the outcomes from investments in African river basins.

Participants learned that knowing the economic costs and benefits of changes in river basin ecosystems – and thus of changes in the well-being of people who use those ecosystems – means that decision makers have a much fuller picture of whether a particular investment is going to pay off. Or, indeed, who might be the winners and who might be the losers.

The power and practicality of using valuation to aid decision making in this way was made clear for participants by Bakary Kone of Wetlands International in Mali. He presented the results of an extensive valuation of the impacts of dam construction in the Niger basin upstream of the Inner Niger Delta. Dams have been built in the basin, and may be in the future, to expand irrigated agriculture and production of hydropower. Economic valuation allows such direct benefits of infrastructure development to be compared with the costs and benefits of changes to downstream ecosystems. The problem with dams in the Inner Niger Delta is that they reduce the extent and depth of seasonal flooding. Production of rice, fish and livestock then tends to decline in the Delta, as does the value of the river transport sector. Habitat for migratory birds is

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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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authority and World Bank counterparts

- ◆ Permanent contacts and substantial involvement of the local authorities
- ◆ Total commitment of the Project beneficiaries
- ◆ Timely and appropriate guidance from the National and Local Coordination Committees
- ◆ GEF, national and local funds available on timely basis
- ◆ A knowledgeable and dedicated Project Implementation Team

Han Zhenzhong presented other lessons from China's Integrated Water Resources and Environment Management (IWEM) project for the Hai River Basin:

- ◆ Coupling government leadership with stakeholder participation
- ◆ Integrating management of water quantity and water quality jointly across both river basin and sea management plans
- ◆ Information sharing and exchanges across sectors

The IWEM project aims to reduce pollution, thereby improving water quality in both the river and the Bohai Sea downstream. At the outset, Chinese water resource and environmental agencies have already cooperated to develop an integrated water, environment and Strategic Action Plan, along with an information sharing platform and monitoring and evaluation systems. Wastewater treatment plant upgrades and other nutrient management demonstrations are underway. Rural community water conservation has also led to increased water use efficiency and crop productivity.

Both projects constitute national projects of the larger Strategic Partnerships (SP) in their respective regions.

Almost one third of humanity lives in the region of the East Asian Seas SP. There, GEF is supporting both a UNDP-implemented Sustainable Development Strategy and a World Bank-supported pollution reduction fund. The fund aims to leverage investments in pollution reduction through the removal of technical, institutional, and financial barriers. Meanwhile, the Strategy fosters collaborative regional institutions to implement national commitments (e.g., GPA, WSSD Plan of Implementation, and UN Millennium Development Goals). Among benefits of the SP approach, as noted by Mara Warwick and S. Adrian Ross, are:

- ◆ Opportunities for regional collaboration and

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## Deepening Transboundary Management of Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe

*Natalia Alexeeva,  
UNDP/GEF Project Manager*



The Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin's newly adopted transboundary water management regime offers

institution-building lessons for other GEF IW projects and their stakeholders.

In cooperation with Estonian and Russian governments, regional and local authorities, private companies and the public, the UNDP/GEF project developed its Joint Transboundary Basin Water Management Programme throughout 2006. As a precursor, the project's Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) had already identified a core set of priority concerns:

- ◆ Eutrophication of Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe (via both direct and riverine nutrient loads)
- ◆ Fishery management
- ◆ Groundwater pollution and water distribution (in the Narva River region)
- ◆ Mining pollution from oil-shale activities

The most significant concern in the basin is eutrophication. It has adversely influenced biogeochemical cycles, leading to undesirably high nutrient concentrations and secondary impacts upon fish stocks.

To develop a programme to address these concerns, partners faced some big challenges:

- ◆ the need to coordinate efforts with parallel projects and initiatives in the region, in order to efficiently allocate management resources across project activities
- ◆ delays caused by in-depth discussions on the need for the Joint Management Programme
- ◆ the lack of prior agreement on the Joint Commission procedures decreased the project's effectiveness

These challenges were overcome via:

- ◆ cooperation agreements and working group meetings with other initiatives and projects
- ◆ adaptive management methods and active UNDP support for the project

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## Using Info Technology to Improve Project Communication

IW:LEARN's November workshop in Mombasa, Kenya aimed to build the capacity of GEF IW projects in applying Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for more effective management, communications, and information exchange with partners and stakeholders.

This workshop assisted projects in creating and directly managing content of their project websites using IW:LEARN's Website Toolkit. Related topics discussed included a GIS toolkit add-on product and sharing content across partner websites via Really Simple Syndication (RSS).

The 3-day workshop targeted GEF IW projects mainly in Africa, including Lake Victoria (Kenya), Nile Basin (Ethiopia, Uganda, Sudan), Sahara and Sahel Observatory (Niger), and the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning Project (Mauritius). Projects from other regions also participated, including Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) (Saudi Arabia), the Yellow Sea LME (Korea) and the Dnipro River Basin (Ukraine).

Raj Prayag (see photo below), the regional coordinator of the WIO project presented the structure of his website, <http://www.ildhoi.net/>, and outlined issues regarding the management and sustainability of the website. IW:LEARN is helping the project to transfer some 400 documents on its former site over to the IW:LEARN toolkit-based site, facilitating decentralized content updating by people without ICT expertise.



Beyond sharing achievements, participants identified strategies and challenges faced in the application of the toolkit. For example, Euidea Yun



Workshop participants. Photo courtesy UNEP

highlighted how the Yellow Sea LME is applying the IW:LEARN toolkit to create a partnership website, <http://partnership.iwlearn.org>.

### OUTCOMES

- ◆ PROTOTYPE PROJECT WEBSITES CREATED AND ONLINE
- ◆ PARTICIPANTS IMPROVED PROJECT WEBSITE MANAGEMENT CAPACITY
- ◆ COMMON STRUCTURE RECOMMENDED FOR ALL IW PROJECT WEBSITES
- ◆ IW:LEARN TEAM GAINED INSIGHT ON PROJECT ICT NEEDS.

Participants enjoyed learning more about:

- ◆ How to create and manage website contents using the IW:LEARN Website Toolkit
- ◆ Web features and content management functions provided by the IW:LEARN Toolkit
- ◆ Using GIS technology to integrate maps into a website
- ◆ How IW:LEARN supports projects in their various ICT endeavours

For reference material from this ICT workshop, please visit: [http://www.iwlearn.net/abt\\_iwlearn/events/nov2006-1/](http://www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/events/nov2006-1/)

For the Website Toolkit please visit: <http://www.iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit>

Examples of web sites using the IW:LEARN toolkit include:

- ◆ Western Indian Ocean - LaB project: <http://www.wiolab.org>
- ◆ The Lake Chad project: <http://lakechad.iwlearn.org>
- ◆ The IW:LEARN project: <http://www.iwlearn.net>
- ◆ UNEP's Gateway to Environmental Information, EcoMundus: <http://www.ecoMundus.net>



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reduced and the availability of reeds for construction declines. When the accounting is finished, the data show that a proposed dam in the Upper Niger would add very little to economic output in the basin. Instead, its biggest impact would be to transfer welfare upstream: Over 25 years, the dam simply moves roughly €500 million in economic value from the delta to the upper catchment.

Decision makers with access to this type of information may be less likely to approve development schemes that do not in fact create net benefits. Previously, economic value associated with ecosystems has frequently been overlooked, with the result that investments in water resources development have sometimes caused more societal harm than good. Economic valuation tools can be substantially reduce this risk. Valuation also clarifies how the benefits of water resources development are shared within a basin.

Dr. Mei Xie of the World Bank Institute presented recent progress in use of valuation data to support transboundary negotiation of water management in the Mekong basin. Economic valuation has enabled riparian nations to compare the distribution of benefits amongst them given various flow regime scenarios. An added benefit of the valuation data has been to increase mutual understanding and to build trust.

Workshop participants considered the implications of these examples and others for river basin management in Africa. The opportunity to share experiences and perspectives across basins helped them to consider new ways of assessing problems and issues that they are facing. For example, the Niger valuation case study prompted Mohammed Bila from the Lake Chad Basin Commission to consider applying a similar approach to understanding the impacts of a proposed inter-basin

transfer scheme for Lake Chad. Similarly, planning was started on how valuation could be incorporated into decision making over dam construction on the Volta, strategic environmental assessment in the Nile basin and national-level IWRM planning.

The workshop was organized by GEF IW:LEARN, in partnership with IUCN–The World Conservation Union, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the World Bank Institute (WBI). The event was generously hosted by the International Institute of Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE). Proceedings were facilitated by a team of resource persons with expertise in environmental economics and water resources management.

From 13 countries across Africa, they represented 6 major international basins in Africa – the Senegal, Niger, Volta, Lake Chad, Congo and Nile. Participants included project coordinators from GEF basin projects, technical advisors, project managers

and partners from government institutions, NGOs and universities.

Over three days of presentations, small group work and discussions, the workshop provided each participant with learning and knowledge they could take away and use. Sessions were not designed to train participants in how to do economic valuations, per se, but rather focused on how to use valuations. Topics covered in the sessions were:

- ◆ Principles of economic valuation of ecosystems
- ◆ Application of ecosystem valuations in IWRM
- ◆ Methods of ecosystem valuation
- ◆ Using valuations to influence decision making
- ◆ Designing and implementing valuation studies

A guiding principle was that participants should be supported in translating the concepts of economic valuation into specific applications and learning objectives for their projects and institutions at home.

**Economic valuation continued on page 5**



*Workshop participants. Photo courtesy IUCN*

## LME VIDEO AVAILABLE

The IW:LEARN sponsored and directed video on Large Marine Ecosystem “Turning the Tide”, is now available for download at: [http://www.iwlearn.net/abt\\_iwlearn/pns/partner/lme-video/view](http://www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/pns/partner/lme-video/view)

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This was achieved by having participants develop Personal Action Plans (PAPs) through group exercises in the workshop sessions. This process also helped to draw into the plenary discussions the real practical challenges faced by participants. Completion of their PAPs meant that each participant left the workshop with a practical strategy for incorporating economic valuation into ongoing learning, knowledge sharing and/or project implementation.

Participants found workshop information practical and applicable to their work in regional river basins. Lily Kisaka from the Nile Basin Commission in Kenya, said that the sessions, “...made it clear how valuation can be used as one of the tools in managing sustainable river basins.”

Participants are now being encouraged to share how they are applying the learning gained from the workshop. At the 4<sup>th</sup> GEF IW Conference in July, participants will have the opportunity to report on progress they are making with their PAPs, and how they are applying economic valuation to their IWRM decisions.

The workshop website is [http://www.iwlearn.net/abt\\_iwlearn/events/ouagadougou/workshopinfo/](http://www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/events/ouagadougou/workshopinfo/).

The IUCN toolkit on economic valuation, “VALUE: Counting ecosystems as Water Infrastructure” is available for download via <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wani/value/index.html>.

More information on this and future IW:LEARN and IUCN learning events contact Mark Smith at IUCN ([mark.smith@iucn.org](mailto:mark.smith@iucn.org)) or Janot-Reine Mendler de Suarez ([janot@iwlearn.org](mailto:janot@iwlearn.org)).

## 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](http://www.iwlearn.net/exchange).

## Managing Lake Basins in Southeastern Europe

Southeastern European water resource management partners gathered in October for a roundtable at Lake Ohrid, Macedonia to focus on common lake basin management challenges. Key issues examined included institutionalizing cooperation and stakeholder involvement, sustainable financing and balancing of lake usage for multiple purposes.

Participants noted that joint lake management institutions should be responsible for more than narrow sectoral issues, such as protection of water resources, alone. Whenever possible, the responsibilities should also include socio-economic development issues, such as basin-wide land use, fisheries, navigation, and biodiversity conservation. Involving local governments and stakeholders in the decision-making structures of joint institutions IW management is also of utmost importance, and can be achieved through affiliated working groups and committees.

On sustainable financing, participants learned that both local Lake Prespa and distant Lake Constance benefited from “domestic” financing at the earliest stages of joint management, which greatly influences later success. The workshop examined the different economic sectors – such as agriculture, tourism, fishery, hydropower, navigation – that could generate funds to cover the operational costs of transboundary water institutions. However, participants concluded that if such institutions clearly demonstrate the value-added from their services, users who benefit from transboundary cooperation would be more inclined to pay for institutional operating costs. Enabling legislation and good financial and technical performance of local utilities form additional support to facilitate cost recovery.

Roundtable participants ultimately reached consensus on the need for a preventive approach to basin management. Progress requires, among other things, a sound scientific basis, effective monitoring, information and experience sharing, informal and formal structures and a broad-scale cooperation and dialogue.

Discussion of case studies compared lake basins with terminated, current and pending GEF projects – Ohrid, Prespa and Skhoder, respectively – plus the Drin River basin. These water bodies form an interconnected complex hydrological system in the southwestern Balkan Peninsula. The meeting served as the first time

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stakeholders from all three lakes met to discuss common challenges and aspirations. Together, they also reviewed issues of integrated management of lake basins, including linkages to river basin and coastal management.

Building on ongoing work in the Southeastern European lakes region, as well as the GEF-supported Lake Basin Management Initiative, this Athens-Petersberg II Process roundtable dialogue targeted lake basin stakeholders including GEF projects and their regional partners. It was jointly organized by GWP-Med (Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean, hosted by the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee (LOWC), and jointly supported by GEF IW:LEARN, the World Bank, Greek and German governments.

Workshop materials and results can be downloaded from [www.watersee.net](http://www.watersee.net). For more information on the Process, please contact IW:LEARN's Mish Hamid, [mish@iwlearn.org](mailto:mish@iwlearn.org) or Janot Mendler de Suarez, [janot@iwlearn.org](mailto:janot@iwlearn.org).



Map showing Drin River Basin including three regional transboundary lakes. Photo courtesy of the World Bank.

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- ◆ active consultation with stakeholders on the project implementation, and
- ◆ brokering close cooperation between the Joint Commission and water authorities

NGO partnership with governments was successful in terms of building trust among the project partners and associated activities, generated by the project. For example, the Peipsi Council was established as a multi-stakeholder forum for dialogue in the region. Active cooperation among different interest groups is vital to reaching common understanding and vision of needed action.

Other major lessons learned by this project include:

- ◆ Successful coordination requires significant time and extra water planning resources
- ◆ “Mixed” activities with other projects are very useful and effective
- ◆ Exchange of experiences among transboundary projects and regions is very beneficial
- ◆ Information should be disseminated as widely as possible to inform uninvolved interests groups
- ◆ Multiple seminars and meetings, though sometimes regarded as a waste of time, are the actually basis for building mutual understanding and contacts

Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe, sometimes called Peipus, is the fourth largest and the biggest transboundary lake in Europe. The lake basin, shared by four countries (Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Belarus) is jointly managed by two of them – Russia and Estonia – sharing more than 85% of the basin. Joint water management and environmental cooperation in the basin are regulated by several bilateral agreements. In 1997, both nations also established an Intergovernmental Transboundary Water Commission, aimed at rational water management and protection of water resources.

To improve the state of water resources in the Peipus basin, implementation of the Joint Programme is the most important planning and development issue hereafter. It shall be implemented in coming years in order to improve the state of water resources in the basin. This is a joint task for many organizations and agencies. Thus, for successful implementation of this Programme, coordinated activities in the basin should be even more intensive in future years.

More information on the project could be found at its website at [www.peipsi.org/gef](http://www.peipsi.org/gef) or please contact the project manager, Natalia Alexeeva at [natalia@ctcspb.ru](mailto:natalia@ctcspb.ru).

## Upcoming Events

**10 Jul. 2007 - 11 Jul. 2007**

**LME CONSULTATIVE MEETING AT UNESCO-IOC**  
Paris, France

**31 Jul. 2007 - 03 Aug. 2007**

**4TH GEF IW CONFERENCE,**  
**Presented by GEF IW:LEARN**  
Cape Town, South Africa

[www.getf.org/iwc4](http://www.getf.org/iwc4)

**12. Aug 2007 - 17. Aug 2007**

**SIXTH INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE  
ON WATER MANAGEMENT**  
Guatemala City, Guatemala  
<http://d6.rirh.net/>

**12 Aug. 2007 - 18 Aug. 2007**

**STOCKHOLM WATER WEEK**  
Stockholm, Sweden  
[www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org)

**11 Sep. 2007 - 13 Sep. 2007**

**SECOND GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON  
LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS**  
Qingdao, China  
[www.imber.info/jobs-announcements/  
LMEs\\_first\\_announcement.pdf](http://www.imber.info/jobs-announcements/LMEs_first_announcement.pdf)

**13. Nov. 2007 - 16 Nov. 2007**

**GROUNDWATER ROUNDTABLE**  
Slovenia  
[www.watersee.net](http://www.watersee.net)

**13 Nov. 2007 - 16 Nov. 2007**

**AFRICAN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP**  
Maseru, Lesotho  
[www.iwlearn.net/abt\\_iwlearn/events/p2/africa](http://www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/events/p2/africa)

**07 Apr. 2008 - 12 Apr. 2008**

**GLOBAL FORUM ON  
OCEANS, COASTS AND ISLANDS**  
Vietnam  
<http://www.globaloceans.org>

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learning, including pooling of expertise and knowledge in the region

- ◆ Forum for innovation, barrier removal, replication and scaling up
- ◆ Mechanism through which local governments can contribute to regional objectives, while lowering local governments' risk in innovation or trying to overcome barriers
- ◆ Systematic monitoring and reporting

Addressing similar land-based pollution threats to marine recovery, Ivan Zavatsky explained how the Danube-Black Sea SP also aims to strengthen policies and institutions, provide parallel investment projects and broad stakeholder involvement. Nutrient reductions, particularly Danube phosphorous discharge, have occurred concurrent with improved oxygen levels and animal biodiversity in depths of the Northwest Black Sea.

With two regional conventions now in place, the Danube-Black Sea SP continues to develop protocols and strategic plans to address land-based pollution and integrated coastal zone management. Critical to these efforts, noted Zavatsky, are that:

- ◆ Countries have political will to collaborate
- ◆ Legal frameworks (conventions) are in place
- ◆ Transboundary institutions (like ICPDR) are strong
- ◆ Long-term support is provided (e.g., GEF-supported projects)

Presentations also highlighted how marine projects intend to meet GPA goals through 2011. Discussion centered on means to achieve GPA and WSSD targets, such as: scaling up and replicating demonstration activities; the need for substantial investments and coordination between GEF and other donors; and incentives for stakeholder participation and private sector cooperation.

Dann Sklarew and Al Duda closed the session noting similar issues were likely to arise during the following session on the GEF-supported Mediterranean Sea Strategic Partnership. Other Partnership Day sessions featured GEF-supported partners in the Caribbean, and an initiative to accelerate GPA-related training and education world-wide.

In addition to coordinating the GEF's opening partnerships session at IGR-2, IW:LEARN also premiered its new LME video documentary (see sidebar), exhibited and distributed hundreds of copies of new GEF International Waters Experience Notes and its Handbook on Governance and Socioeconomics of Large Marine Ecosystems, and convened a lively, informal peer-to-peer session among five GEF IW projects attending IGR-2.

For more on GPA IGR-2, visit: <http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/igr/igr2/home.php>. Presentations from the IW:LEARN-sponsored GEF Strategic Partnerships session are also available at: [http://www.iwlearn.net/abt\\_iwlearn/pns/partner/gpa-igr2](http://www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/pns/partner/gpa-igr2) or contact [info@iwlearn.org](mailto:info@iwlearn.org) for more information.





## 2007 IW:LEARN ACTIVITIES PLANNED

### IW EVENTS

- ◆ LME Economic Valuation Workshop (in Cape Town, South Africa; with IUCN Global Marine Programme)
- ◆ Fourth GEF International Waters Conference (in Cape Town, South Africa; with GETF)
- ◆ Athens Declaration-Petersberg Process II - South-eastern European Groundwater Management Roundtable (in Slovenia, with GWP-Med, World Bank, the German and Greek governments)
- ◆ Joint InWent/ELI regional IWRM workshop on Public Participation (in Southern Africa; with InWent and ELI)

### IW OUTREACH

- ◆ Publish at least fifteen IW Experience Notes
- ◆ Launch traveling Gender and Water Expo in Africa

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS 2006-7

- √ IW:LEARN/IAEA Inter-project stakeholder exchange on groundwater management (in the U.S.; with USGS)
- √ Strengthening Transboundary Water Resources Management Among GEF IW projects in Africa Workshop (in Nairobi, Kenya; with INWENT, WBI, GWP and UNEP)
- √ Athens-Petersberg II Process - Southeastern European Lakes Management Roundtable (in Ohrid, FYR Macedonia; with GWP-Med, World Bank, Greek and German governments)
- Ø Economic Valuation and Watershed Decision-making Training Workshop (in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; with IUCN-WANI, WBI, EIER, GWP-Africa)
- Ø Coral Ecosystem Health Workshop (in Cozumel, Mexico; with World Fish Center and World Bank)
- √ Information Management Workshop (in Nairobi, Kenya)
- √ Public Participation in Latin America IW Projects Workshop (in Montevideo, Uruguay; with ELI, OAS and UNESCO)
- √ Premiered LME documentary at GPA IGR-2

## News from the IW Community

### Danube Final Seminar Concludes 15 Years of GEF Regional Investment

The Danube final seminar, held in Bucharest Feb 21-22, examined the results and achievements of the Danube Regional Project as a successful model of a regional programme. A further ministerial declaration by the sixteen Danube River Convention contracting partners noted that, the UNDP GEF Danube Regional Project and Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project have provided "an important contribution to building regional cooperation and improving pollution control," and further committed the parties to "to strengthen the water and aquatic environment protection activities undertaken in the Danube region and to increase the cooperation and efforts for the protection of the marine waters and marine environment of the Black Sea."

### BBC-Coca Cola Black Sea Documentary Premiere

The Black Sea project, in partnership with Coca-Cola and BBC, has produced a new documentary "The Sea That Almost Died", highlighting efforts (and subsequent outcomes) to mitigate the impact of various stresses on the Black Sea Ecosystem. <http://www.bserp.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](mailto:mish@iwlearn.org). We are particularly interested in stories of lessons learned, challenges overcome, and milestones in IW project implementation.

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

For more information:

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