



BRIDGES



IW CONFERENCE SPECIAL ISSUE

JUNE 2005

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From The Source

By Al Duda and Andrea Merla

On behalf of the Global Environment Facility Secretariat and its Implementing Agencies, we welcome those readers joining us in Salvador, Brazil, for the third GEF International Waters Conference. Many have already noticed that this year's conference is a little different: it part of the new GEF International Waters:LEARN Project that focuses on learning needs through structured learning and information sharing activities.

Between World Water Day 2005 and now, you may have participated in one of IW:LEARN's four new electronic forums — parallel tracks for aquifers, river basins, lake basins and marine ecosystems. Results from the first season of these peer-to-peer email discussions will serve as inputs into a series of three breakout sessions during the IW Conference. Learning priorities from these sessions will then form the basis of a biennial learning agenda within each track, culminating in the fourth IW Conference in Africa in 2007.

Exchanges Open Channels Between GEF IW Projects

IW: LEARN is pleased to announce the official launch of its innovative and exciting Inter-project Stakeholder Exchange Program. This program aims to enhance transfer and adaptation of practical experience among GEF projects and partners to enhance capacity in any aspect of International Waters (IW) management.

Here's how the program works: GEF-supported IW projects and water-related projects in the GEF pipeline propose representatives to visit or host multi-week study missions. Representatives may include project personnel, affiliated officials, scientists, non-governmental organization leaders, and policy makers. Over two to six weeks, hosts and guests share experiences face-to-face and learn from each other in practical ways through collaborative interactions. Through this process, participating projects are expected to increase institutional capacity to replicate best practices and lessons learned across GEF projects and regions.

A 2004 pilot program offered participating GEF IW projects a chance to exchange staff. Their after-action reports cited a variety of tangible benefits from the sponsored exchanges:

Based on their experience with the Mediterranean Information Office, Danube Environmental Forum plans to "change the rules of communication with network members" and "develop an advanced NGO database, which will fully meet the needs for effective and fast communication with members." The information management and data dissemination within and outside the network will also be improved. (Monica Kovacova, DEF Project Coordinator)

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LEARN

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

For more information contact:

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



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In response to your highest priority learning needs as expressed at the last conference, we have also expanded our workshop offerings in Salvador to include two time slots of parallel overviews of public participation in IW management, the TDA/SAP process, and information technology tools for IW management. We've dedicated one day to feature the IW experiences of our Latin American and Brazilian hosts, while adding sessions to explore integration across projects and GEF focal areas, including high-level agency involvement. Beyond presentations, IW:LEARN has organized a two-night showcase of GEF IW projects' films and videos; the Black Sea Shell Palace and Gender and Water exhibits will make their premiers in our exhibit hall; and several side-events here may interest you.

The IW Conferences are now part of a larger suite of IW:LEARN offerings that also include:

- An IW Information Management System to increase discovery and accessibility of GEF IW projects' information across projects and regions
- Regional workshops, peer-to-peer learning activities and a regional learning center to address capacity issues raised at the IW Conferences
- Support for multi-week technical visits or exchanges for personnel and partners to extract, transfer and adapt practical experiences between their project areas
- Outreach activities, such as events featuring GEF IW projects describing their experiences at international meetings (like the World Water Forum or Global

Oceans Forums), a documentary on Large Marine Ecosystems, a traveling Gender and Water exhibit, and this newsletter, International Waters Bridges.

You will learn more about these activities in this first issue of the newsletter and at the GEF IW Conference.

At the GEF Secretariat, we certainly hope IW:LEARN will provide a valuable service to all GEF IW projects and partners as you address integrated management of surface and groundwater basins as

well as the coastal and oceanic portions of Large Marine Ecosystems.

LEARNING PRIORITIES FROM THESE SESSION WILL THEN FORM THE BASIS OF A BIENNIAL LEARNING AGENDA WITHIN EACHTRACK, CULMINATING IN THE FOURTH IW CONFERENCE IN AFRICA IN 2007.

If you have further questions about or requests for IW:LEARN, please feel free to contact its Chief Technical Advisor, Dann Sklarew, or Project Coordinator, Janot-Reine Mendler de Suarez via phone (+1.202.465.4600), fax (+1.702.552.6583), or email (info@iwlearn.org) or visit the GEF IW:LEARN website www.iwlearn.org.



A traditional Thai dancer convenes the IW:LEARN project launch banquet at the IUCN congress

Pooling Lake Basin Lessons

Lake Biwa, JAPAN — Lakes and their basins provide water, food, livelihoods and other services to millions around the world, yet lakes are fragile and increasingly imperiled. To better manage lake basin resources, says Masahisa Nakamura of the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC), “What needs to be done in the long-term is not being done.”

The GEF-supported Lake Basin Management Initiative (LBMI) undertook a global review to identify important lessons to help those working to sustain benefits from lake environments to humanity. In cold, hot, wet, or dry climates alike, 28 lake basins across 41 nations indicate:

1. Lakes have response times longer than political time scales.
2. The complexity of lake ecosystems often masks both good and bad actions.
3. Management cannot stop at the lakeshore, but must extend to the drainage basin, and often beyond.
4. Fragmented authority, due to either international borders or local jurisdictions, complicates lake basin management.
5. A focus on only freshwater is misplaced; saline lakes also have tremendous values.
6. Overall, lake basin management must be seen as a long-term endeavor whose journey is as important as its destination.

“WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE LONG-TERM IS NOT BEING DONE.” --MASAHISA NAKAMURA, ILEC

The LBMI final report derives such lessons from over two years of regional workshops and research, through the set of experience briefs for each basin as well as 17 thematic papers on lake basin management issues. Once completed by ILEC and LakeNet, the LBMI Final Report will be issued at the 11th World Lake Conference in Nairobi in late October (www.ileckenya.go.ke).

Encouraging findings come from around the world:

Lake Peipsi management has overcome historical fragmentation to achieve dramatic cooperation success in targeted information sharing involving both riparian nations (Estonia and Russian Federa-

tion) through the efforts of local, national and international groups in East Africa, a convention on the conservation of the Lake Tanganyika has been ratified. At Lake Laguna de Bay (Philippines), an innovative environmental usage charge helped reduce industrial effluent load dramatically, while fish-cage zoning also helped fisheries recover. Remedial action backed by strong political support has also improved livelihoods of fisher folk at Lake Chilika (India), as fish and prawn stocks recovered and water weeds declined. In Lake Dianchi (China), investment in wastewater treatment and diversion works have stabilized waste loads into the lake.

“Good examples are important,” notes Stephen Lintner of the World Bank, “since they provide insight into successful approaches to meet the complex challenges of lake basin management.” In fact, even the most effective and enduring lake basin management programs indicate new challenges continually emerge — from over-fishing, to land- and air-based pollution, to invasion by foreign shellfish and aquatic weeds. Thus, lake basin managers can learn both from LBMI’s findings and from each other.

LBMI was implemented by the World Bank and executed by ILEC, with support from LakeNet. The GEF, Ramsar Convention, UNDP, UNEP and USAID also provided guidance through the project’s Steering Committee. This team is now working to disseminate

LBMI products.

As IW:LEARN’s partner for lake basins, LakeNet will also continue GEF-supported lake managers’ experience-sharing through various structured learning activities.

To obtain copies of the LBMI Final Report, 28 lakes’ experience briefs and 17 thematic papers, please visit the project’s website: www.worldlakes.org/programs.asp?programid=2 or contact ILEC (+81.77.568.4567, gefmsp@ilec.or.jp).

For more information on ongoing lake basin learning, please contact LakeNet by phone (+1.410.268.5155), email (info@worldlakes.org) or visit www.worldlakes.org.

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Lake Chad Basin Commission had “an opportunity to network with colleagues in a project with similar objectives ... and exchange ideas. The lessons learned during the Lake Peipsi mission will enable the LCBC GEF project to quickly implement a Knowledge Management/Sharing infrastructure at the crucial beginning of the project and avoid costly mistakes.” (Mohamed Bila, LCBC)

The Forum Fisheries Agency of the Solomon Islands noted highly efficient project management lessons at BCLME, which has low personnel-to-project financing ratios: “This minimum number of staff was managing some twenty to thirty projects worth over a million dollars.” (Joel Opnai, Fisheries Management Advisor)

Regarding her visit to the Rio San Juan, the Rio de La Plata’s information management specialist described the mutual help between projects: “The exchange of experiences and lessons learned in relation with the implementation of a Management and Decision-Making System ... will strengthen the individual institutional capacities.” (Patricia Himschoot, FREPLATA)

South Pacific Regional Environmental Program observed that, “The Pacific International Waters Program and other SPREP Programmes may...benefit from insight into the processes PEMSEA participating countries have followed in ICM initiatives such as developing coastal policies and strategies and their application and potentially adopting some of the processes and approaches in future Pacific initiatives.” (Natasha Stacey, Community Assessment and Participation Specialist, SPREP)

PEMSEA learned, “In comparison with similar efforts in Manila Bay and the Bohai Sea, the most advanced feature of the Chesapeake Bay area is its practices in managing pollution by non-point sources. In the Chesapeake Bay, the State governments and other stakeholders are encouraging good practices in land uses, including reforestation, zero loss of wetlands, soil erosion control, and environmental friendly construction practices in containing sprawl effects.....The lessons learned from these practices will be very useful for the East Asian countries.” (Huming Yu, Senior Programme

“LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE MISSION WILL ENABLE THE LCBC GEF PROJECT TO QUICKLY IMPLEMENT A KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT/SHARING INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE CRUCIAL BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT AND AVOID COSTLY MISTAKES.” (MOHAMED BILA, LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION)

Officer)

IW:LEARN expects to support between 3-7 exchanges in 2005, and an additional 3-7 exchanges in 2006. At least one beneficiary, but not necessarily all beneficiaries, in the exchange must be affiliated with a GEF IW project or its partners. IW:LEARN will provide travel grants to participants in selected exchanges beginning in October 2005.

The first submission deadline for proposals is 1 October 2005. “With such lead time,” notes IW:LEARN’s Director, Dann Sklarew, “the third GEF IW Conference provides projects a unique opportunity for attendees to identify and draft potential exchange proposals while meeting face-to-face in Salvador.”

For further guidance and an application form, please visit the IW:LEARN’s website (www.iwlearn.org), IW:LEARN’s Conference booth or contact Ms. Janot-Reine Mendler de Suarez, IW:LEARN’s Exchange Program coordinator (exchange@iwlearn.org).

SEE INTER-PROJECT STAKEHOLDER EXCHANGE CIRCULAR
ENCLOSED IN THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS CONFERENCE

Danube TEST Produces Industry Results

After a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) identified “hotspots” of environmental pollution within the Danube basin, 17 suitable enterprises near hotspots in Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic were invited to participate in the voluntary Danube TEST pilot project. At the outset, the project discovered limited ecological understanding, lack of environmental enforcement and of medium-term environmental strategies were the norm. However, “economic drivers are much stronger than the environmental ones,” notes David H. Vousden, the project evaluator, “and are pushing companies in the direction of improving the efficiency of their operations.”

Case in point: Slavianka JSC was established in 1948 and is one of the biggest fish processing companies in Bulgaria. The production process is divided into two parts: sterilization to process fish and metal cans for packaging. Facilities also include



*Danube TEST project staff -
Photo Courtesy UNIDO*

a boiler house producing steam for the production processes and a wastewater treatment system. Before TEST, Slavianka had no idea how big their waste problem was.

Through the pilot project, Slavianka developed reliable figures as well as options for mitigation. Slavianka used the TEST methodology to determine their main problems were fish waste from cleaning, washing and defrosting; the cleaning of the packing cans; and excessively high water and energy consumption. Old equipment in all sections needed to be updated or replaced to reduce costs and pollution. The company therefore focused on three main processes: a) limiting water consumption and related wastewater flows, b) reduction of pollution load and the volume of effluent generated, and c) improvement of energy efficiency.

Their old defroster, a major source of wastewater pollution, was replaced by a new one which reduced water and steam consumption by 60%, thus also decreasing wastewater and energy use. Some innovative solutions for production line reconstruction and modernization were also applied to old equipment to decrease Slavianka’s environmental impact.

With technical assistance from project-affiliated national Cleaner Pollution Centers, participating companies determined they are actually paying huge sums of money to produce waste products of no value and of significant concern, rather than valuable product. TEST shows how this can be resolved through investments that are substantially less than what the company throws away. Slavianka and its 16 counterparts increased water efficiency and energy efficiency, while decreasing raw material consumption, water pollution, air pollution and solid waste. Together they reduced pollutants in wastewater by more than 3 tons annually (up to 100% per enterprise), overall water consumption and wastewater production by over 2 Million cubic meters per year (up to 52% per enterprise), and realized over 200,000 kWh/yr in energy savings. These companies achieved real benefits in terms of both environmental impacts and their own bottom line.

Mr. Vousden emphasizes that Danube TEST was “a very worthwhile example of a GEF MSP investment, from which many valuable lessons and practices can be captured.”

This article was based on the Danube TEST Final Evaluation, an insightful resource to guide any nation(s) considering applying the TEST approach to help both their environment and economy in TDA-targeted hotspots. Juerg Staudenmann of UNDP (Bratislava) highly recommends the report as “a good example for an informative and useful ‘knowledge product’ with crucial insights, valuable lessons, and succinct recommendations for follow-ups.”

Case study details are also available in the UNIDO/ Technical University of Sofia publication ‘An Integrated Approach to Environmental Management in Bulgarian Enterprises – The Experience from the Implementation of the UNIDO TEST Project in Bulgaria.’

The Danube TEST Final Evaluation is accessible on-line via <http://www.iwlearn.net/docs/test/test02e.pdf> or by contacting info@iwlearn.org.

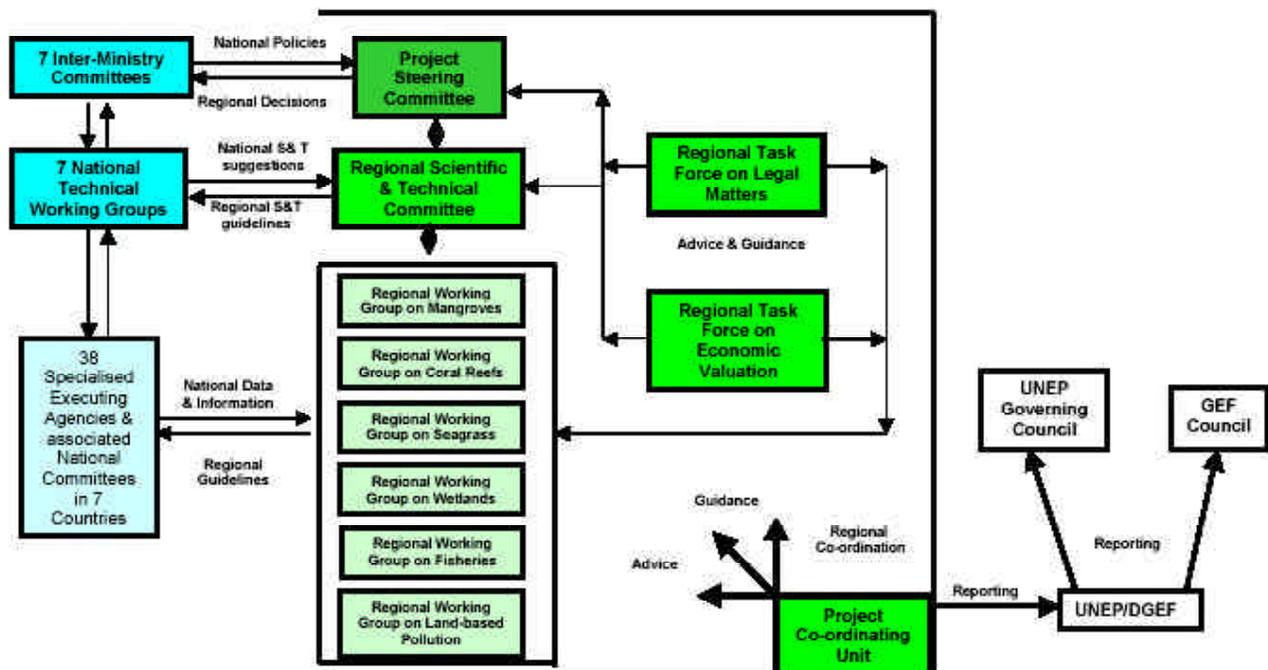
Successful Management in South China Sea

Can seven nations act in concert within their shared ocean areas to simultaneously address coastal and marine biodiversity, fisheries, and pollution control? Such harmonization, transcending at least seven languages, is a key feature of the GEF-supported project, "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand" (SCS).

Based on a prior Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), the SCS project components address three priority concerns: (1) coastal habitat degradation and loss (2) fisheries-over exploitation, and (3) land-based pollution. Here, "habitat" includes sub-components for mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and wetlands. A fourth component, project coordination and management, directly involves a network of over 100 institutions and indirect participation from more than 400. UNEP implements the project through signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) directly with the seven nations' Environment Ministries and 31 Specialized Executing Agencies (SEAs), each charged with a specific TDA-related component or sub-component.

Initial wariness regarding the cost and complexity of such collaboration has since progressed to satisfaction among project participants. A carefully-constructed management framework is now both functional and valuable in clarifying connections between components and the overall project. SCS's management framework consists of parallel tracks for political decision-making and technical coordination, as shown in the figure below. At the regional scale, technical coordination includes national experts for each area of concern, while national-level coordination brings each nation's experts together across those areas of concern. Together, these national groups receive guidance and inform one another through a Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC). National technical working groups also provide guidance to the various SEAs and advise national Inter-Ministerial Committees whose Environment Ministry chairs serve on the overall project's Steering Committee. In addition, to provide additional guidance, two regional task forces (on legal matters and on economic valuation) were formed since implementation began to address recognized knowledge gaps.

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SCS Management Framework

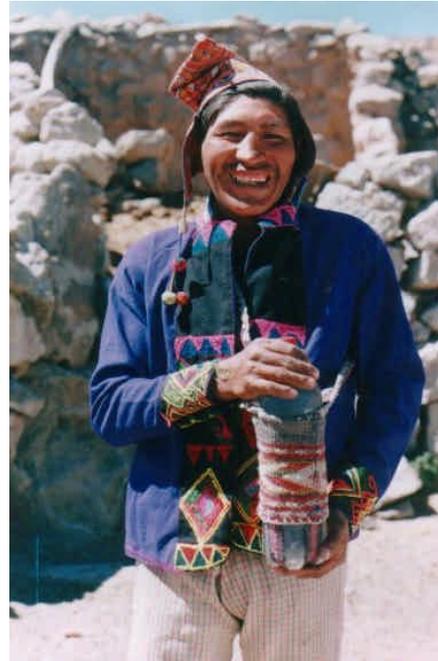
Caminos de Agua WaterWays Caminhos de Agua Chemins de l'Eau

Around the world, water resources management is as diverse as the cultural significance. Culture plays an important part in defining the roles that men and women play in their relationship to water. These roles can reflect existing inequities and imbalances present in the society at large.

The Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and GEF IW:LEARN have created the WaterWays travelling exhibit to:

- raise awareness and create interest among the general public on gender and water issues
- highlight the cultural diversity of gender and water challenges
- bring together national constituencies of GWA and GEF International Waters projects to foster local collaboration and advance gender mainstreaming at the ground level.

The exhibit will premier at the 3rd biennial GEF IW Conference, in Salvador, Brazil in June 2005. The exhibit materials will continue to grow through a series of water-related meetings in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. IW:LEARN's goal is for GEF projects from all regions to be represented before concluding the LAC tour in Mexico at the Fourth World Water Forum in March 2006. The exhibit will then launch a Africa-and globally-focused second phase and will be featured at the 4th GEF IW Conference in Africa.



*A gentleman from Bolivia transports water -
Photo courtesy Gender and Water Alliance*

GEF projects are warmly invited to participate by contributing materials and are also encouraged to host the exhibit to support public participation in gender mainstreaming.

To Contribute Materials from your project countries, contact the Exhibit Curator, Sergio Chamorro: (sergio@iwlearn.org)

To schedule the exhibit in your project region, contact Janot Mendler de Suarez at IW:LEARN: (janot@iwlearn.org) and (+1.508.358.5204) or Liliana Arrieta at GWA (liliarrieta@yahoo.com.mx)

THE GENDER AND WATER TRAVELLING EXHIBIT

LAC TOUR: 2005 – WORLD WATER FORUM
2006

AFRICA/GLOBAL TOUR: 2006 - 2008



IW Learning Centre in Southeast Asia

From the tsunami-stricken Bay of Bengal to the heavily industrialized Yellow Sea, nations in South and East Asia face daunting challenges in cooperatively managing their international waters. The region is also a source of tremendous wisdom regarding both freshwater and marine ecosystem management.

To build capacity in all aspects of managing international waters in Southeast Asia, IW:LEARN is developing a Southeast Asia Regional Learning Centre (SEA-RLC) for International Waters management. Though the Southeast Asia START Regional Centre (SEA START RC) in Bangkok, Thailand, SEA-RLC will provide these services to projects in the area:

- GIS Service Centre for environmental decision-making
- Expert roster and specialist networks
- Library of practical experiences
- Sustainable Financing Reference Centre; and
- Support for IW:LEARN structured learning activities

For more information, please visit (www.iwsea.org) or contact the SEA-RLC Project Coordinator, Dr. Richard Cooper, at (rcooper@iwsea.org) or (+66 2.218.9464/7).



Fish from the South China Sea

“South China Sea” continued from page 6

Mid-term independent evaluators concluded that SCS’s matrix-style management structure “constitutes a model of project management and administration which should be emulated elsewhere.”

Contributing factors to this success include:

- The design of a management framework that permits both “horizontal” (inter-country) and “vertical” (intra-country) interactions and networking between individuals at all levels of project implementation and execution;
- A management framework that includes a body (the RSTC) that serves as a forum for reconciling both sectoral and national interests and priorities;
- The clear separation between discussions of scientific and technical matters from discussions dealing with policy and principles at both the national and regional levels;
- A management framework that facilitates the incorporation of sound scientific and technical advice and information into politically based decision-making;
- The use of regional experts and consultants from the participating countries;
- Restriction of the membership of the Project Steering Committee to government representatives only, and exclusion of observers from regional and international agencies and institutions other than UNEP;
- The framework allows for adaptive management and is not a rigid unchanging structure; and,
- Adequate time for detailed planning of the execution arrangements.

Further insights regarding SCS’s management framework, and advice regarding its replication elsewhere, can be found in an SCS-produced case study, “Managing Multi-Lateral Inter-Governmental Projects and Programmes” (IW:LEARN Knowledge Document UNEP/GEF/SCS/Inf.1).

The 15-page document that served as the basis for this article is available from the SCS project Web site: www.unepscs.org, or by contacting Dr. Richard Cooper of IW:LEARN’s Southeast Asia Regional Learning Centre (SEA-RLC, www.iwsea.org) via phone (+66 (0)2 218 9465) or email (rcooper@iwsea.org).

Coming Downstream

► 09.OCT.2005 - 14.OCT.2005

INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE ON WATER MANAGEMENT (DIALOGUE V)

Montego Bay, Jamaica

The theme of the upcoming dialogue is "Strengthening Local Capacities to Achieve Global Challenges".

► 31.OCT.2005 - 04.NOV.2005

WORLD LAKES CONFERENCE

Nairobi, Kenya

www.ileckkenya.go.ke

The theme of the 11th World Lake Conference is "Management of Lake Basins for their Sustainable Use: Global Experiences and African Issues"

► 22.NOV.2005 - 25.NOV.2005

XII WORLD WATER CONFERENCE OF IWRA

New Dehli, India

www.iwra.siu.edu/conferences/newdelhi2005.html

The theme is Water for Sustainable Development — Towards Innovative Solutions

► 23.JAN.2006 - 27.JAN.2006

GLOBAL OCEANS FORUM

Paris, France

www.globaloceans.org

► 16.MAR.2006 - 22.MAR.2006

4th WORLD WATER FORUM

Mexico City, Mexico

www.worldwaterforum.org/

The main theme of the 4th World Water Forum is Local Actions for a Global Challenge.

► 12.DEC.2006 - 16.DEC.2006

EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS

People's Republic of China

eascongress.way.to

Follow-up to the Congress held in Putrajaya, Malaysia in December 2003.

News From The IW Community

Samoa IW Project to Protect Samoa Precious Freshwater

By Cherelle Jackson and Steve Menzies

The Samoa International Waters Project (IWP) is working with the village of Lepa, on the island of Upolu, to try and find practical, low cost, ways for Samoa rural communities to improve their access to safe drinking water. According to a report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) some 60% of villagers in Samoa indicated that their water had to be boiled because of its poor quality...

www.sprep.org.ws/article/news_detail.asp?id=217

Turn environmental problems into investment opportunities!

The GEF has allocated a medium-sized project grant to PEMSEA participating countries for the purpose of developing and demonstrating public-private partnerships (PPP) in environmental investments...

www.pemsea.org/partners/partners_ppp.htm

IW Training Flows Though Guinea Current

Since December, the Guinea Current LME project delivered workshops on GIS, coastal Early Warning Systems, and Integrated Coastal Areas Management. In June, African participants will benefit from three more trainings: mangrove assessment and restoration, fish trawl survey methods and marine pollution sampling and analysis...

(From GCLME Newsletter, First Edition, available via gclme@unido.org)

Call for Articles

IW:LEARN requests articles from the GEF IW community for the next issue of Bridges.

Send articles and announcements for events, publications or jobs to info@iwlearn.org

In addition, IW:LEARN syndicates project information, including newsletters at www.iwlearn.net/news. To send information regarding RSS links, please email updates@iwlearn.net



2004 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- √ Organized 3 sessions at the Japan Water Forum's Integrated Water Resource Management international conference in Tokyo. Nine projects presented national and transboundary management and financing experiences to a global audience of over 60.
- √ Kicked-off IW:LEARN with freshwater and marine learning events featuring 5 large marine ecosystems and 2 freshwater basins to over 85 IUCN Congress participants in Bangkok.

2005 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- √ Established Southeast Asia Regional Learning Center (SEA-RLC) and launched website (www.iwsea.org)
- √ Conducted four freshwater and marine learning exchanges using electronic forums, with roughly 250 participants
- √ Launched European regional exchange with 3-day workshop on public participation and information management for International Waters, held in St. Petersburg, Russia. Over 60 from Eastern Europe and Central Asia participated.
- √ Delivered 3rd GEF International Waters Conference (IWC).
- √ Invited IWC participants to apply for 2005-06 inter-project stakeholder exchanges.

2005 ACTIVITIES PLANNED

- Deliver public participation training in 1 GEF IW region.
- Launch prototype IW-Information Management System (IW-IMS)
- Link one-quarter of project websites to the IW-IMS
- Link Southeast Asia Regional Learning Center to the IW-IMS
- Integrate Africa module into IW-IMS
- Conduct ICT training workshop
- Conduct 3 to 7 inter-project stakeholder exchanges
- Produce and disseminate GEF LME video documentary
- For Southeastern European IW basins, conduct 3 roundtables for senior officials and launch an Internet-based information exchange network.
- Finalize IW:LEARN Sustainability Plan

IW:LEARN aims to strengthen International Waters Management (IWM) by facilitating structured learning and information sharing among stakeholders.
 For more information contact:
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 Phone: +1.202.518.2054, Fax: +1.202.387.4823,
<http://www.iwlearn.org>, Email: info@iwlearn.org

