



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Support for Regional Oceans Training Programmes

GEF ID#: 392, PIMS ID#: 3902

Project Status: Completed



Key results:

1. Four International Ocean Institute (IOI) regional centres were established in Fiji, India, Senegal and Costa Rica.
2. Existing IOI courses were updated and dozens of new courses were developed.
3. Decision maker seminars have led to high level mechanisms in governments and universities to address ocean and coastal issues.

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the project is to help the International Ocean Institute (IOI) establish four regional operational centers (Fiji, India, Costa Rica, and Senegal) that will serve as vehicles for focusing attention on ocean related issues, providing training on the management of exclusive economic zones and initiating research programmes to deal with local and regional concerns.

RESULTS: PROCESS

INDICATOR #1: Operational center institutional infrastructure created. [*Target: Infrastructure created for four centers capable of providing 1300 participant weeks of training per year. Support to include provisions for appointing directors; administrative support; establishing networking capabilities; and dissemination of information.*]

Regional centres have been established in Dakar, Senegal; Suva, Fiji; Madras, India; and San Jose, Costa Rica. The host institutions for each of the four centres entered into formal agreements with IOI and provided considerable resources. The capabilities of the four centers were assessed, agreements were negotiated with the host governments, and four directors were appointed. There was a dramatic increase in the number of outreach activities and the number of individuals attending training courses. Exchange of experience between centers at directors meetings was very active and effective.

INDICATOR #2: Training programmes formulated and developed. [*Target: Update IOI's three basic courses; develop new training programmes to include the following elements: policy research; curriculum and course development; training of teachers; a scholarship programme; workshops for decision makers and IOI alumni; a masters degree programme; and a programme for evaluating the efficacy and effectiveness of the courses.*]

Notable progress was made in the development of course materials and there was a significant increase in the number of individuals attending courses. A gradual adoption of the TRAIN-X methodology and a more integrated and consolidated approach to courses has resulted in significant pedagogical progress. All of the IOI courses have been developed in shorter, more efficient versions. The number of courses being prepared by the centers vastly exceeds the target. For example, Madras is preparing 20 courses, while the University of the South Pacific, in Fiji, is preparing two or three top-level courses, one of which was accepted as a university course.

Decision maker seminars in Fiji resulted in the establishment of a national, cabinet-level committee to serve as an integrating mechanism to deal with ocean and coastal issues. In Costa Rica, a similar seminar catalyzed the establishment of a multi-sectoral integrated programme on oceans within the University of San Jose. The synergy achieved during meetings of the center directors resulted in the development of some joint courses.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- 1) It was important that the new centres focus on course development and self-sufficiency, and avoid getting spread too thin in the formative stage by participating in IOI global activities.
- 2) A more hands on approach to collaboration with IOI Headquarters would be useful in assisting the centres in formulating regional priorities and programmes that are compatible with the vision and approach of both the project and IOI.
- 3) Active collaboration in planning and convening training programmes is important in establishing strong linkages and coordination with other regional programmes, such as those under the auspices of Regional Seas Conventions, IOC/Unesco, and FAO.

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