



Global International Waters Assessment

Dear GIWA friends,

Overfishing of cod, nuclear waste storage and the invasion of the red king crab are all issues threatening the unique Barents Sea ecosystem. They are described in the recently released GIWA Barents Sea report, which received high attention, both by media worldwide and by official agencies concerned with the future of the Barents Sea region.

The Barents Sea report is a good example of the important compilation of facts for a sustainable future of a region's waters. Here, as in all the GIWA regions, scientists from different countries and disciplines have come together to evaluate a number of environmental issues that cause problems in international waters. The issues are the same no matter where you are on this globe. These regional assessments along with their causal chain analysis and the described policy options are welcomed by concerned experts on both scientific and governmental levels.

Our report on Lake Chad is another example. I had the opportunity to participate in the 51st Ministerial session of the Lake Chad Basin Commission in Nigeria recently. I was proud to recognise that the GIWA regional report was welcomed by the ministers of all the Lake Chad Basin countries as an important contribution to the work of the commission.

Several other GIWA regional reports are now being published and it is my hope and ambition that they all will attract at least the same level of attention as the ones mentioned above.

Dag Daler,
Scientific Director

Upcoming events

8-10 November, 2004, Sydney, Australia: Leading-Edge Conference on Sustainability in Water-Limited Environments.

10-14 January, 2005, Mauritius: International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States meeting.

Klaus Töpfer Launched the Barents Sea Report

The GIWA regional report on Barents Sea was launched August 24 by UNEP's Executive Director Klaus Töpfer at the Offshore Northern Seas conference in Stavanger, Norway. The new report on the threats to the unique Arctic ecosystem received high attention in international media.

– The increased exploration activities for petroleum resources in the Barents Sea, the offshore developments and the shipping of oil and gas along the coasts represent significant potential threats, said Dr. Töpfer at the press conference in Stavanger.

The report states that the overexploitation of fish stocks is the most alarming problem for the region at present. Pollution is identified as the next most important concern.



UNEP's Executive Director Klaus Töpfer presented the GIWA Barents Sea report, assisted by GIWA's Scientific Director Dag Daler.

Major news wire services, print media and TV networks in different parts of the world reported on the launch.

GIWA at World Water Week

The printed GIWA reports from regions in South America, Africa and the Barents Sea region were exhibited at the World Water Week in Stockholm in August. Delegates also learned about the results of the assessment by attending a GIWA Side Event. At this event the GIWA Steering group chairman Steve Lonergan presented UNEP's recognition of the GIWA work. The GIWA coordinator for Sub-Saharan Africa Edith Musukuya made an overview of the results in the African regions. This annual meeting in Stockholm attracts water experts from all parts of the world and many expressed interest for the upcoming GIWA reports from their water regions.



The GIWA exhibition in Stockholm received many visitors, here Al Duda, GEF, and GIWA's Dag Daler in discussion with some World Water Week participants.

Several Workshops Held in Kalmar

What are the most important issues to be addressed for transboundary waters in the future? What are the most important future needs? How to avoid more "troubled waters"?



Troubled waters workshop participants, from left Mike Bonell, UNESCO, Björn Guterstam, GWP, Sara Gräslund, GEF, Olof Lindén, WMO, Dag Daler, GIWA, Werner Ekau, IOI, and Ulf Lidman, UoK.

These were the questions raised when the "Troubled waters-Bridging Science and Society" workshop met in Kalmar in August. The workshop was hosted by the University of Kalmar in collaboration with GIWA, and brought together international experts dealing with different aspects of transboundary waters.

-We had very fruitful discussions and the workshop statement will be distributed to stakeholders involved in the strive for sustainable use of international waters, said Ulf Lidman, University coordinator for the workshop.

A workshop on the GIWA reports in the Arctic and Far East regions has been held in Kalmar. Participants were Arkady Alekseev from the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow, Galina Titova, Ecological



GIWA Workshop on Russian reports: from top Arkady Alekseev, Giovana Salomon, Elina Rautalahti-Miettinen, Najah Mustafa, Marianne Lindström, Galina Titova, Natalia Golubeva, and Ulla Li Zweifel.

Safety Scientific Research Centre in St Petersburg, and Natalia Golubeva, Murmansk Marine Biological Institute. Together with several members of the GIWA Core Team they improved and finalized the results for the assessments done in the Sea of Okhotsk, Oyashio Current, Japan/East Sea, Black Sea and the Arctic Russian sector.



A workshop on policy strategy for marine waters in Southeast Asia has been held in Kalmar, chaired by Dr. Sherry Heileman, consultant to GIWA. Members of the GIWA task teams in Southeast Asia and Australia participated as did members of the GIWA Core Team. Here in picture from left: Sherry Heileman, David Souter, Seang Tana Touch, Clive Wilkinson, Ketut Putra, Pinya Sarasas, Ulla Li Zweifel and Loke Ming Chou.



The steering group for the present GIWA mission has had its last meeting in Kalmar, Sweden; from left Professor Gotthilf Hempel, GIWA Ambassador, Germany, Professor Åke Hagström, University of Kalmar, Sweden, Chair Steve Lonergan, UNEP-DEWA, Kenya, Inesis Kiskis, World Bank, Lithuania, GIWA Scientific Director Dag, Daler, Michael Huber, GESAMP, Australia, Al Duda, GEF, USA, Eero Kontula, Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland, Björn Guterstam, GWP, Sweden, Sara Gräslund, GEF, USA, Ken Sherman, NOAA, USA, Andrew Hudson, GEF-UNDP, USA, Pinya Sarasas, UNEP, Kenya, and Mats Eriksson, SIDA, Sweden.



Zukiswa Tynfa from the University of Fort Hare in South Africa learned about GIWA from Information Officer Elisabet Idermark.

Marrakech Congress

2 200 participants representing one hundred countries attended the 4th World Water Congress in Marrakech, Morocco, in September. GIWA was there, invited by the organiser International Water Association. One theme for the discussions at the congress was how to attain the Millennium Development Goals. The Marrakech meeting gave GIWA an excellent opportunity to meet a number of water experts who expressed interest in the methodology and the results of the assessment.



Environment Day. Sixten Karlsson and Johan Lundegårdh were two of the students in the Kalmar elementary school Falkenbergsskolan who chose to discuss international waters when they participated in an Environment Day recently. GIWA was there to present its work and the students showed great interest in the issues.