



BRIDGES



JULY 2007 - IWC4 EDITION

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Promoting Public Participation in Latin America, the Caribbean and Beyond

Like many of its IW peers, the Caribbean LME project strives to advance public participation throughout its period of GEF-support. This task's scale is daunting: The Caribbean Sea includes over two dozen nations. Each has distinct norms, laws, culture and capacity for IW management. Together, they speak five official languages. Thus, CLME's Bertha Simmons sought help from her peers to help CLME balance influence and achieve consensus among its various stakeholders.

At the IW:LEARN's first regional "Public Participation in International Waters Management" workshop in Montevideo, Uruguay, Ms. Simmons joined about 50 others from GEF projects, national agencies and NGOs met to collaboratively address vexing issues like:

- ◆ What institutional structures suffice to facilitate public and stakeholder involvement?
- ◆ How can stakeholder analysis make a project thoroughly participatory?
- ◆ What participatory objectives and processes should be included in GEF-mandated stakeholder involvement plans?

Public Participation continued on page 3

The Fourth IWC: Replicating Project Experience Through Peer-to-Peer Exchange

"We have heard you, the GEF International Waters Portfolio, and we have an innovative Fourth Conference for you," says Al Duda, the GEF's Senior Advisor for International Waters. The GEF and its IW:LEARN program took home an important message from participants in the Third GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (IWC), two years ago in Brazil: "We have listened to experts and reports, but now we want to learn more from each other, to have more opportunities to discuss with our peers in other projects - in our own region and in other regions - on a practical level, how difficult challenges have been addressed, so that we can learn from each other's successes and also learn from our mistakes in transboundary waters management."

The Fourth GEF IWC in Cape Town, South Africa, responds strongly to this message, and aims to provide more, in both style and substance, for the entire GEF IW portfolio. Project staff, national government representatives, implementing and executing agencies and other GEF IW project partners will engage in an innovative and carefully structured yet participatory peer-to-peer learning process. Participants can expect to engage, both informally and formally, with a broader cross-section of the GEF IW portfolio than ever before. All participants are warmly encouraged to be frank about what you need and expect from GEF and from IW:LEARN, both during the conference and going forward.

One participant in the Brazil conference wrote, "Presentations had too much boring background material and not enough personal ideas on challenges and strategies/ideas to overcome the

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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:

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

GEF IW:LEARN, c/o UNDP Washington Office, 1775 K Street NW #420,

Washington, DC 20036, USA,

Phone: +1.703.835.9287, Fax: +1.702.552.6583



Collective Examination of Aquifer Management by the GEF Groundwater Portfolio

Andy Garner, IAEA Water Resources Program

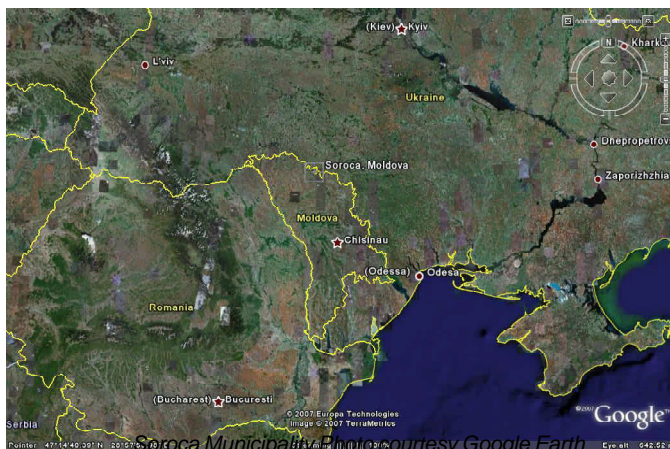
What best practices and other practical experiences emerged from a groundwater study tour/learning exchange sponsored by the IAEA, GEF IW:LEARN and the U.S. Geological Survey? Representatives from three transboundary aquifer projects, the Guarani in Latin America, the Northwest Sahara and Iullemeden in Africa convened in the U.S. last April to review integrated management lessons and experiences at several sites. Participants reflecting on the workshop emphasized a number of key observations:

- ◆ The managerial unit should always be very local and based on small aquifers domains, generally in one c o u n t y (municipality)
- ◆ A confident water management process between the U.S. and Mexico was based on historical common projects and a cooperation system in the Boundary and Water Commission level strongly based on a technical assessment and support system.
- ◆ Integrated ground and surface water resources management must be undertaken.
- ◆ Despite desalinisation becoming a real option for water supply, groundwater management is less expensive in terms of energy and recovery land and waste disposal areas.
- ◆ It is important to build and maintain monitoring network – without data it is impossible to manage water resources.
- ◆ A good balance between scientists and decision-makers roles in terms of water resources management proves critical.
- ◆ Good technical advice and a adjudication systems can mitigate conflicts.

According to Luiz Amore, Director of the Guarani

New Project: Moldova Wetlands to Reduce Nutrient Discharges to Black Sea

A recently approved GEF project offers the promise of more transferable experience in wastewater management through low-cost constructed wetlands.. In May, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved the Moldova Environmental Infrastructure Project under the GEF/World Bank Partnership Investment Fund for Nutrient Reduction, part of the GEF's Strategic Partnership for the Danube/Black Sea basin. The GEF's \$4.5 million grant will leverage at total of the \$9.9 million dollars for the project.



Laurence Mee, a Black Sea basin water management expert, wrote that the “The most significant process degrading the Black Sea has been the massive over-fertilization of the sea by compounds of nitrogen and phosphorus, largely as a result of agricultural domestic and industrial sources.”

The project will improve the quality of the Nistru River that separates

Moldova and Ukraine and will pioneer innovative and low-cost constructed wetlands to reduce the nutrient loads on the Nistru and the Black Sea. The objectives of the project are to:

- ◆ Improve the quality of sanitation services in the Soroca municipality
- ◆ Reduce the discharge of pollutants, including nutrients, from Soroca municipal sources that flow into the Nistru river and, subsequently, into the Black Sea
- ◆ Demonstrate and disseminate through feasibility studies and workshops, cost-effective and affordable technologies for municipal wastewater treatment for the potential benefit of similar projects for Moldova's existing wastewater treatment plants, for towns in Moldova that have no wastewater treatment, and for the countries that drain into the Black Sea.

The Moldova project joins a series of nutrient



Montevideo workshop participants map ideas.

Public Participation continued from page 1

One working group session provided her practical guidance to identify an adequate set of diverse stakeholders and to determine their potential goals and roles in the project. Other sessions of the December 2006 workshop examined strategic communications, information access, legal and institutional frameworks for public participation, gender mainstreaming, and incorporating participation into monitoring and evaluation.

Co-sponsors from the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) provided participants with a draft Handbook on Public Participation in International Waters Management. Local co-hosts from the Guarani Aquifer project, UNESCO and OAS regional offices contributed insightful participation lessons, tireless logistical support, and warm Uruguayan hospitality.

IW:LEARN, ELI and other partners will co-sponsor

their next regional participation workshop in Maseru, Lesotho, in November 2007. A third is scheduled for Hanoi, Vietnam, in April 2008.

For information about the IW:LEARN-ELI public participation initiative — including the draft handbook, workshop materials and upcoming events — please visit <http://www.iwlearn.net/participation>. For expert assistance with your own public participation initiative, please contact ELI's Ms. Jessica Troell (troell@eli.org).



Communicating Project Objectives Through Award-Winning Films

How can a project advance its mission and raise awareness through easily disseminated communication media? One method would be to produce a documentary film starring invasive species as the villains. The GEF-UNDP-International Maritime Organization (IMO) project on ballast water control, established to combat

the introduction of alien species to foreign ecosystems by ships, opted to produce a documentary film. This relatively low-cost intervention enables the project to explain its agenda to a wide stakeholder audience through a medium that is easy to duplicate and disseminate, as well as easily received by broad or key audiences.

"The film, since its launch in 2006, has precipitated an unprecedented momentum in national and regional responses, and this is tremendously helping to raise the awareness and understanding of the issue through mass media and mobilizing political support," says GloBallast's project director Jose Matheickal, "The demand from governments, NGOs and industry for this movie has been overwhelming. The film is an excellent example of how such an awareness generation tool could make such a powerful and catalytic impact."

Film continued on page 9



Conference continued from page 1

problems.” In fact, the predominant recommendation from respondents called for more time dedicated to small-group and personal dialogue in both formal and informal settings, for breakout groups, project meetings, topical and regional discussion. This conference is designed to scale a more intimate and practically-oriented workshop experience up for the few hundred project participants. The conference will also introduce cutting-edge collective learning techniques to channel participants through a process filled with stimulating and highly interactive sessions.

“Much of the success of this conference is contingent upon your involvement and willingness to infuse your experiences in this active learning process, and take the collective knowledge back home,” says Atem S. Ramsundersingh, Senior Water Management and Institutions Specialist at the World Bank Institute. Indeed, two major conference themes, Good Governance and Institutions and Sustaining International Waters Partnerships, will open with conversation tables, sessions in which participants are encouraged to meet new people, and conduct a spirited exchange of experience that results in clusters of key topics, addressed in larger working groups.

In order to give priority to addressing your needs and concerns, the conference will utilize other types of peer-to-peer learning sessions. Inter-project Clinics on Day Three of the conference aim to facilitate problem-solving dialogues between participants with valuable practical experience in a particular aspect of shared water resources management and those who would like to benefit from learning more on those given subjects. Through “peer-assist” discussion on “what works, what does not work and why” participants can help each other to explore ways to adapt or transfer others’ experience to meet challenges. The final day of the conference features a series of parallel Participant-led Workshops, which have been proposed and organized entirely by participants prior to the conference. Requests may also be made during the conference and will be accommodated as space permits.

Andy Hudson, UNDP’s Principal Technical Adviser for International Waters, notes, “We have devised a variation of the gameshow “Jeopardy” as a tool for learning about the GEF and its Monitoring and Evaluation requirements. This session is one of the many innovations we are using this week to make the conference more participative and valuable as a portfolio learning tool”. Conference breaks taken in the Innovation Marketplace will provide frequent opportunities for projects to showcase innovations that characterize successful implementation and highlight replicable achievements and approaches. These breaks, and two further evening sessions in the exhibit area will promote exploration, informal discussion and networking opportunities in the context of the Marketplace. To encourage lively demonstrations, peer-selected and juried prizes will be awarded, including prizes for displays, and an award for the best GEF IW project website. The overall list of sessions includes:

- ◆ Conversation Tables/Working Groups: This session uses simultaneous, small-group conversation to explore common challenges or issues of interest or concern, which are then synthesized by a facilitator into priority topics for subsequent working groups. The chief facilitator will initiate conversation by posing questions, designed around raised by participants prior to the IWC4. The series of small group conversations will refine vital learning issues related to two of the major conference themes (Governance and Institutions and Sustaining IW Partnerships). Participants will be asked to volunteer as facilitators.
- ◆ Project Clinics: Nothing characterizes the active, customized learning experience more than the project clinics. This conference session enables participants to request and receive assistance from their colleagues – or to provide assistance – by creating small working groups to address a specific IW problem under the overall topic of achieving results and measuring impacts. These clinics are intended to be mini-workshops featuring assistance for project management, performance, and impact, based on participants’ indications of their projects’

Conference continued on page 10, Logframe on page 5

IWC4 Log Frame

GEF IW:LEARN ACTIVITY: 4 th INTERNATIONAL WATERS CONFERENCE	
Objective #1: Share experiences & good practices among GEF IW projects	
Result	Means of Verification
Result #1: Good practices and successful approaches are identified and replicated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ IW Experience Notes: at least 10-15 topics and examples of good practices identified ◆ IWEN topics analysed, synthesized and codified by theme into a sourcebook or guidance document and disseminated ◆ IW-conference evaluations document useful practices learned and plans for replication.
Objective #2: Promote learning and capacity building for GEF IW projects	
Result	Means of Verification
Result #2: Cross-project learning and sharing mechanisms are assessed, reinforced and, where successful: proliferate (e.g, iwlearn.net, exchanges, e-forums, workshops) and refine learning specifications to improve IW:LEARN services to projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Participant-prioritized list(s) of emerging learning priorities ◆ Demonstration of iwlearn.net as nexus for IW learning activities ◆ Documented feedback on existing and desired role of iwlearn.net as GEF IW resource center ◆ Expressions of Interest for inter-project exchanges, regional & thematic workshops, etc., to continue and improve IW learning post-IWC4
Objective #3: Guide ongoing IW projects to apply evolving GEF policies and procedures with respect to project implementation	
Result	Means of Verification
Result #3: Emerging GEF policies received and applied by GEF IW projects, including retrofitting where practical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New GEF Strategic Objectives and Programs clarified with IW portfolio ◆ Information on project cycle, Incremental cost, etc. (results framework) presented with links to more info ◆ GEF IW M&E (Indicators) games delivered (e.g., Bingo, "GEFardy")
Objective #4: Improve project performance through conference sessions	
Result	Means of Verification
Result #4: Improved project performance, including remedial help to surmount challenges (specific actions for each participant or project to pursue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Case studies integrated into agenda to actively address challenges faced by at least 6 projects (as derived from PIR and PPR MTE info) ◆ Outcomes of Inter-project 'peer-assist' clinics reported and documented ◆ Evaluations assess projects' plans to address challenges

Groundwater Exchange continued from page 2

Aquifer project, “U.S. water agencies play an important role in education, participation and supporting decision making process on surface waters, in sharing waters from rivers and channels, and groundwater management trying to integrate land surface and soil use on groundwater availability and quality.”

The Guarani’s Brazilian national director, Julio Kettlehut stressed that, “A key lesson learned is the need for technical information or data for doing any kind of water management. This looks obvious, but for me, the biggest difference between the U.S groundwater management systems and our countries’ systems are related to the databases that the U.S has. Most of our countries have legal and institutional systems established according to social and cultural aspects of which one, but in general, we do not have enough gathered valuable data information.”

“The most important empirical thing I learned in terms of transboundary water resources management is the value of trust between countries,” said Robert Montes also of the Guarani Aquifer, “Trust allows the International Boundary and Water Commission (U.S.-Mexico) to manage more than 600 miles of land border, and the Colorado and Rio Grande rivers in an efficient way. A great example to follow.”

With the overall goal of building capacities for transboundary aquifer management by learning about best practices and exchanging experiences and thereby setting the foundation for a network for future interaction and mutual benefit, the specific objectives of the exchange addressed:

- ◆ technical aspects of water resources in support of groundwater management decisions—isotopic tools, monitoring networks, characterization, geo-

Groundwater Exchange continued on page 7



Groundwater exchange participants. Photo courtesy Andy Garner

Experience Note: Partnering with the Private Sector to Reduce Pollution

How can a GEF project partner with industry to reduce the impact of pollution in water ecosystems? The latest GEF IW Experience Note covers this topic as it was addressed by the GEF Project Danube River - Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST). TEST emerged to demonstrate how environmentally sound technologies would not only aid in reducing point-source pollutants but would assist the associated enterprises that adopted these technologies to be more cost-effective and less wasteful. The Development Objective of the TEST initiative was twofold:

- ◆ To improve industrial environmental management by major industrial enterprises in the Danube River Basin, resulting in major reductions in pollutant loading and consequently risk to the Danube River and Black Sea aquatic environments.
- ◆ To build capacity in networks of national cleaner production institutions to advise the enterprises in the five participating countries on how to implement the TEST approach.

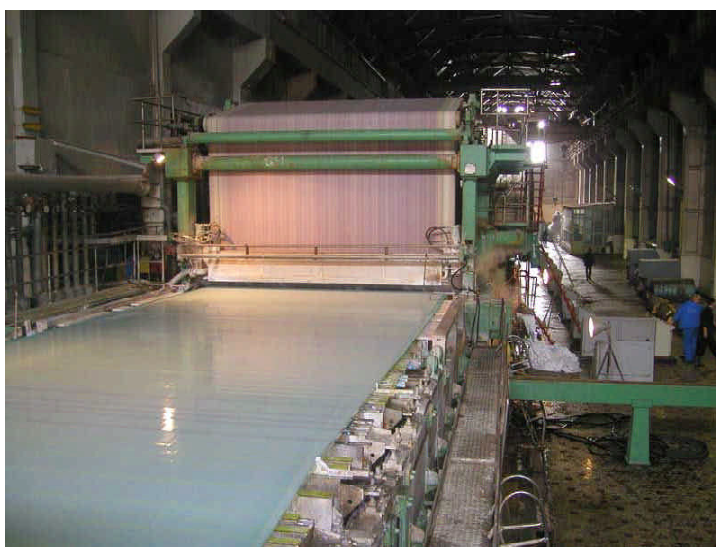
The project identified 130 major manufacturing enterprises of concern (hot spots) within five Danube Basin countries, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. Although capacity exists within the Danubian countries to provide many of the services needed by industry to pursue the simultaneous objectives of enhanced competitiveness, social responsibility and environmental compliance, these capacities remain isolated in separate institutions and companies.

The TEST approach introduced a sequence of modular, customizable tools (An Initial Review of Company Needs, Environmental Management Systems, Cleaner Production Assessment, Environmental Management Accounting, Environmentally Sound Technology Assessment and Sustainable Enterprises Strategy). Over a 3 year period, the Project worked with the counterpart networks in each country to train their selected enterprises in the implementation and adoption of an appropriate suite of TEST tools.

Groundwater continued from page 6

databases, GIS) and aquifer development (recharge, permits, uses)

- ◆ managerial aspects of (ground)water in order to ensure a sustainable water supply through discussion about several aquifers in differing climatic and hydro-geological settings—groundwater management models across governing boundaries, water management indicators, institutional arrangements, legal framework, permits, water uses and tradeoffs, policy direction;
- ◆ public participation options—advocacy and citizenship building strategies, user groups and stakeholder participation



Industrial Plant. Photo courtesy Danube TEST project

This groundwater learning exchange began at the U.S. Geological Survey Headquarters in Washington D.C., where participants learned about approaches to integrated water resource management, fundamental need for sound science and a good data base in developing conceptual models as well as efforts in involving stakeholders. In El Paso, Texas the group visited the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) and exchanged views about transboundary water management. The IBWC emphasized the fundamental importance of developing trust based in part on a consistent transparent exchange of data. In Tucson, Arizona, presentations focussed on issues related to management in a water scarce region. Integrated groundwater/ surface water management and use, good communication practices as well as water re-use and a visit to a well-functioning Artificial Recharge site in Tucson. The final stop in San Diego, California provided an opportunity to consider water management in areas of fast growing

IW:LEARN Introduces a free Web-based GIS solution for GEF IW Projects

Richard Cooper

IW:LEARN's Information Management services now offer GEF IW projects support for establishing their own online Web-based Geographic Information System, or WebGIS. A key benefit in adopting IW:LEARN's WebSite Toolkit is that it allows GEF IW Projects to quickly establish a WebGIS using the Toolkit's WebGIS Module.

Like IW:LEARN's Website Toolkit, the WebGIS Module is based on Plone open source software and offers functionality for incorporating maps and geographic-related data (e.g., ESRI shapefiles) and information into project websites. Additionally, GIS data located on web servers around the world can be accessed and displayed; for example, satellite imagery can provide background context to project-

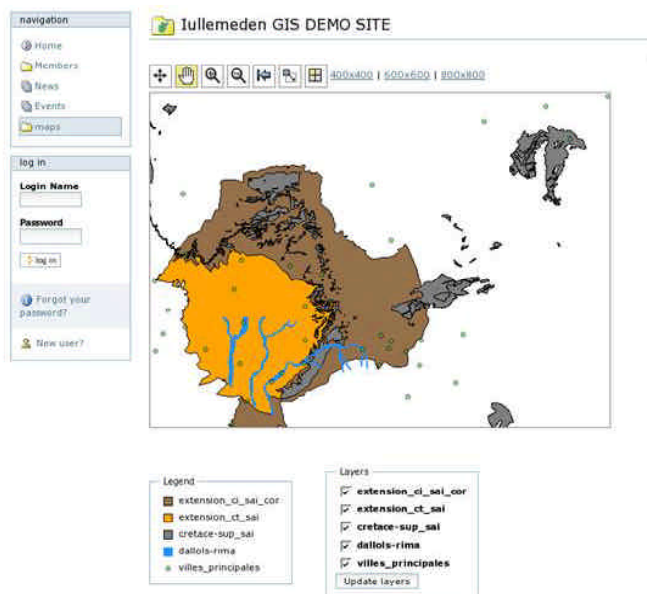


Homepage of IW:LEARN's WebGIS Module Demonstration

related data to create customised maps.

Core GIS features include zoom, pan, map display re-sizing, pre-defined geographic areas of interest, hyperlinking, and KML files that permit viewing of data in Google Maps and Google Earth. In the near-term, integration of additional functionality is planned to provide projects with a web-based GIS that focuses on ease of use, yet applies state of the art technology. A demonstration site has been developed to highlight how the WebGIS can be used by projects for displaying data and information; the site is available at <http://gis.iwlearn.org/sites/demo>.

To-date, three GEF IW projects have already adopted IW:LEARN's WebGIS Module including in Asia (the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem project) and Africa (the NW Sahara Aquifer System and Iullemeden Aquifer projects). Given that WebGIS technology is rapidly developing, IW:LEARN staff continue to work with projects to keep them updated on developments and on how they can best display and share their data and information.



Iullemeden Project GIS Demo Site:
<http://gis.iwlearn.org/site/iullemeden/maps>

For more on the WebGIS module please contact Richard Cooper, an Environmental Specialist and E-Content Editor for the GEF IW:LEARN Project, and based at the Southeast Asia START Regional Centre of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok (rcooper@iwsea.org). For more information write to UNEP-IW:LEARN (iwlearn@unep.org) or visit this <http://www.iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit>

Private Sector continued from page 7

Although companies were initially cautious about the entire TEST approach, in most cases they quickly came to understand the potential advantages to them within the overall business landscape in terms of both complying with environmental norms and therefore being able to compete within a wider market, as well as actual savings in terms of reduction in wastes and unnecessary discharges.

In some cases, when some enterprises realized that they would also need to contribute time, financial and human resources to the project aims there was a further natural selection process through attrition and lack of 'ownership' for the project concepts and outcomes. Financial viability of companies was not easy to assess on a preliminary basis, due to lack of reliable data.

The following is a summary of the overall achievements of implementing the TEST process at all of the selected companies:

- ◆ A general reduction in unnecessary investments and costs to companies of producing waste products
- ◆ Change from loss to profit through usage of wastes (recycling or alternative products)
- ◆ Overall improvements in quality of products
- ◆ Increased marketing potential as a result of higher quality linked with environmental acceptability
- ◆ Avoidance of fines, penalties and ill-will with regulatory bodies monitoring compliance
- ◆ Overall improvements to company profiles and credibility

TEST provides a real example of how partnerships with the private sector can lead to major improvements within the regional and global environment through improved processes, stress reduction and eventual environmental status improvements. 17 enterprises in five countries were successfully introduced to TEST and various options for environmental management and pollution reduction were adopted to varying degrees dependent on availability of funding.

To read the full detailed Experience Note please visit <http://www.iwlearn.net/experience>. To contact the author please write David Vousden (DavidVousden@aol.com). To visit the website for the TEST project please visit <http://www.unido.org/doc/26190>. To contact its former project director, please write Roberta De Palma (depalma.roberta@gmail.com) or Pablo Huidobro (p.huidobro@unido.org).

Film continued from page 3

Filmed by the renowned British Broadcasting Company (BBC)'s Wildvision, the film shows that harmful organisms transported in ballast water by ships have caused biological and economic havoc around the world, largely due to the expanded sea trade and traffic volume over the last few decades. The documentary features some of the solutions to preventing the spread of invasive species in ships' ballast water, including exchange of ballast water on

the high seas and new technologies that are under development, such as flow-through systems to continuously exchange ballast water while the ship is sailing and methods to kill/inactivate microscopic life forms such as by using ozone or ultraviolet light.

The film also highlights the successful role that a GEF-IW Project played in catalyzing the international action against marine invasive species. And in a final, but unexpected success, the film won the Gold Medal (Best UN Feature Film) in the 3rd annual UN Documentary Film Festival in April

2007. The film cost close to US\$1,000,000, with \$600,000 solicited from the private sector, and the rest an in-kind contribution from the IMO, BBC, industry and other partners.

Mr. Matheickal goes on to say, "At its heart, *Invaders from the Sea* has a message that time is not on our side in our fight against invasive species. However, it also sends an optimistic message that, while the challenges appear to be significant, they are not insurmountable. With the effective and intelligent use of resources, an integrated and collaborative approach and with catalytic impacts of projects like the GloBallast projects, answers to these challenges will be found so that industry can continue to work in harmony with the environment."



*A ship discharges ballast water.
Photo courtesy GloBallast*

For more information on the GloBallast project, please contact its director, Jose Matheickal at jmatheic@imo.org. For more information on the documentary please contact Lee Adamson, Head, Public Information Services on +44.20.7587.3153 (media@imo.org) or Natasha Brown, External Relations Officer on +44.20.7587.3274 (media@imo.org). A recent IW Experience also discusses the recent Ballast Water Convention. To read it, please visit: http://www.iwlearn.net/publications/experience-note/expnote_globallast_convention.pdf

Conference continued from page 5/6

greatest challenge(s).

- ◆ **Focused Learning Discussions:** Each of these simultaneous sessions will feature an important IW management topic in which GEF support has contributed to a significant scientific or technical innovation. The topics include groundwater, nutrient reduction, constructed wetlands, fisheries, marine resources, economic valuation and innovative applications of the GEF TDA/SAP approach. These will resemble more traditional workshop formats, with brief contributions by projects and partners who will frame issues, challenges and replication potential related to these innovations, as well as form the basis for discussion in each group. The key here will be a focus on innovation as opposed to standard form project descriptions.
- ◆ **Participant Led Workshops:** The final conference session will offer you a chance to attend participant-led workshops – or organize your own – to follow up on an area of particular interest with colleagues before departing the conference. This session offers GEF projects and partners an opportunity to design dialogue or technical workshops for the benefit of their colleagues, or for detailed follow up on earlier working group topics, or to address any other needs or vital learning issues which may emerge during the conference.
- ◆ **GEF Policy Dialogue:** The Global Environment Facility is undergoing significant changes to its policy and procedures. The IWC offers a unique opportunity for the GEF Secretariat to clarify these changes for you, answer your questions and obtain your feedback. This television talk-show style session will feature leading GEF representatives interviewed on an informal stage. Participants will have the opportunity to take the microphone and pose questions and comments about the effect of new GEF policy and procedures.

At the end of the day, all GEF projects are evaluated based on what is achieved and the outcomes resulting from project activities. Just as projects must prepare a logical framework which is used as the basis for monitoring and evaluation, the Fourth GEF IWC, in this spirit, should be no different. (see Logframe Table Page 6) With this in mind, participants of the 4th IWC are encouraged to also evaluate the success of the conference through the same lenses that they themselves are evaluated. The 2007 International Waters Conference offers a multitude of innovations, both in design and in content. Participants of the 4th GEF IWC will be asked to consider the success of this re-engineered conference, both in meeting stated objectives, as well as in terms of personal benefit and value to your GEF projects of participation in the IWC.

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.

Groundwater Exchange continued from page 6

populations. The participants also visited desalinization plant in San Diego (of brackish groundwater) which represents a growing option for water supply in California as well as in many parts of the world.

The study tour, organized by USGS with IAEA and IW:LEARN, provided the basis for enhancing a network of groundwater professionals active in GEF supported groundwater projects that will be continue to be facilitated via the GEF IW:LEARN Programme. The group used a blog to make information available on a daily basis. Several follow-up activities were recommended including a suggested meeting of all GEF supported groundwater projects to discuss issues directly related to the management of transboundary aquifers including TDAs and SAPs for transboundary aquifers, developing groundwater management plans etc. The IAEA and USGS are also considering a second exchange with participants from other groundwater projects (e.g. Nubian Aquifer, Nile Groundwater etc.).

For some participants, the learning exchange resulted in changes to their management plans. For the Lullemeden Aquifer, the exchange contributed new knowledge to:

- ◆ Mathematical local models scheduled to precise the connection between Niger river and the aquifers and the type of management according to the water demands (consumption, livestock, plants, irrigated agriculture)
- ◆ The formulation of the Strategic Action Program after the adoption of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis by the three countries (Mali, Niger and Nigeria)

Groundwater exchange blogs as well as all presentations are available at <http://www.iwlearn.net/groundwater>. For further information, please contact Andy Garner, Water Resources Management Specialist, IAEA (a.garner@iaea.org). For more information on IW:LEARN's learning exchange program please contact Janot Mendler (janot@iwlearn.org) or visit <http://www.iwlearn.net/exchange>.

Upcoming Events

31 Jul. 2007 - 03 Aug. 2007
4TH GEF IW CONFERENCE,
Presented by GEF IW:LEARN
 Cape Town, South Africa
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

11 Sep. 2007 - 13 Sep. 2007
SECOND GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
 Qingdao, China
www.imber.info/jobs-announcements/LMEs_first_announcement.pdf

16 Oct. 2007 - 19 Oct. 2007
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COASTAL
AQUIFERS AND DESALINATION PLANTS
 Almeira, Spain
g.ramos@igme.es

23. Oct. 2007 - 25 Oct. 2007
REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATED
NUTRIENT REDUCTION MANAGEMENT
 Ankara, Turkey

13. Nov. 2007 - 16 Nov. 2007
GROUNDWATER ROUNDTABLE
 Brdo Pri Krajnu, Slovenia
www.watersee.net

13 Nov. 2007 - 16 Nov. 2007
AFRICAN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP
 Maseru, Lesotho
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>

New LME Video Premieres at GPA IGR-2

A new video documentary on Large Marine Ecosystems may help GEF projects to inform their stakeholders of the importance and threats to coastal waters. The 26-minute video, *Turning the Tide: Sustaining Earth's Large Marine Ecosystems* also clearly and beautifully depicts how GEF-supported partnerships are working to reverse degradation of these fragile LMEs. In a nutshell:

The Earth's Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) are places of great beauty, biodiversity and bounty. Humanity depends on the vitality of these coastal areas, yet current human activities - pollution, over-fishing, pollution and habitat destruction - are causing catastrophic harm to LMEs.

A global movement has begun to stop and reverse this damage to our planet's oceans before it's too late. With support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), nations are beginning to turn the tide to save LMEs. And you are part of the solution too...

Created by Francois Odendaal Productions for GEF IW:LEARN, the LME video premiered before over 100 nations' ministerial representatives at GPA IGR-2 in October, 2006. It has since been distributed on theatre-quality DVD to all GEF LME projects' secretariats. The film is also available at lower resolution for on-line viewing at: http://www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/pns/partner/lme-video.

For DVD copies in English or Chinese, or to help translate the video into other languages, please contact info@iwlearn.org.



LME Video Front Cover.



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)
- Economic Valuation and Watershed Decision-making Training Workshop (in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; with IUCN-WANI, WBI, EIER, GWP-Africa)
- 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

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

For more information:

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

GEF IW:LEARN, c/o UNDP Washington Office, 1775 K Street NW #420, Washington, DC 20036, USA,

Phone: +1.703.835.9287, Fax: +1.702.552.6583

News from the IW Community

Report: "Towards an Ecosystem Approach to Long Line Fisheries in the Benguela"

Available now from the DLIST Document Library. This report presents the findings of an assessment carried out by a project that aimed at reducing bycatch of sea birds, turtles and sharks in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

Available at: http://www.dlist-benguela.org/repository/Download/BCLME/Benguela_Fisheries_Pelagic_Birds/

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reduction projects spanning the Black Sea basin from Hungary to Turkey. All aim to mitigate eutrophication and other environmental and socioeconomic impacts of pollution. Comprehensive impact evaluation studies will be carried out and the results of these will serve as a basis for the dissemination and replication activities. IW:LEARN will also work to disseminate these outputs, as appropriate, across the GEF International Waters portfolio.

For more information on the Moldova Wetlands project contact Takao Ikegami at +1.202.473.2334 or (tikegami@worldbank.org). For further information on World Bank's GEF program, visit <http://www.worldbank.org/gef>

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. We are particularly interested in stories of lessons learned, challenges overcome, and milestones in IW project implementation.

