

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

What is GEF IW:LEARN?

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN)

Mission

Strengthen International Waters (IW) management by facilitating learning and information sharing among IW projects, partners and stakeholders.

Means

Since 1998, IW:LEARN improves GEF IW projects' information, replication efficiency, transparency, stakeholder ownership and sustainability of benefits through:

A. INFORMATION SHARING:

Facilitating access to information about transboundary water resources

B. LEARNING: Structured learning among GEF IW projects and cooperating partners

C. DIALOG: Organizing biennial International Waters Conferences

D. INNOVATION: Testing innovative approaches to strengthen IW implementation

E. PARTNERSHIP: Fostering partnerships to sustain IWLLEARN benefits

A. ACCESS TO IW INFORMATION

Aim: *Facilitate the integration, exchange and accessibility of data and information across GEF IW project sites to IW projects, partners and stakeholders.*

Products and Services:

- A1. IW Information Management System (IW-IMS): A network for IW projects' information and data sharing
- A2. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Technical Assistance



B. PRACTICAL IW LEARNING

Aim: *Foster face-to-face and distance learning among GEF IW projects.*

Products and Services:

- B1. Multi-project structured learning activities on a regional scale.
- B2. Multi-project structured learning series for aquifers, rivers, lakes, large marine ecosystems (LME) and coral reefs
- B3. Inter-project exchanges between GEF IW projects and partners.
- B4. Training to enhance public participation in IW management.



Participants at the 3rd International Waters Conference in Brazil on sailboat.

C. TRANSFER OF IW EXPERTISE

Aim: *Deliver GEF IW conferences, gathering the IW community to share experience among projects, partners, stakeholders, and evaluators*

Products and Services:

C1 and C2. Two GEF IW Conferences.

D. SPREADING IW INNOVATION

Aim: *To test and replicate novel approaches and tools to meet IW stakeholder needs.*

Products and Services:

- D1. South East Asia Regional Learning Center (SEA-RLC)
- D2. Roundtables and IW network for IW stakeholders in Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean Sea
- D3. CSD/GEF Roundtable on IWRM

E. CREATING IW PARTNERSHIPS

Aim: Sustain information sharing and learning exchanges across GEF IW projects and partners.

Products and Services:

- E1. Partnerships sustain IW:LEARN's benefits beyond project lifecycle
- E2. Outreach from GEF to greater IW community through side-events, Gender and Water traveling exhibit, LME video and learning products



Participants at IW:LEARN's Information Management and Public Participation workshop in St. Petersburg, Russia

IW:LEARN PARTNERS

International Agencies

- GEF Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, World Bank Institute, OAS, UNOPS, UNECE, UNESCO

Non-Governmental Organizations

- Cap-Net, CTC, EcoAfrica, ELI, GETF, GWA, GWP, IUCN, LakeNet, URI, SEA START RC, URI

Plus the many nations participating in GEF projects and IW capacity-building activities.



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International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network



Operational Phase

A project of



In partnership with



The World Bank