



International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN)

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SPECIAL DALIAN ISSUE

- ◆2nd International Waters Conference ◆New Stakeholder Participation Tool◆
- ◆Sustainable Scholarship Fund Launched ◆The World Summit and the GEF◆

SHARING IW KNOWLEDGE IN DALIAN, CHINA

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has provided over \$600 million to its International Waters (IW) projects portfolio. The GEF's Second Biennial International Waters Conference (IWC) in Dalian, China, reviews this portfolio and promotes sharing of experiences and best practices among GEF IW projects. The Conference also promotes collaboration between participating governments, project managers, GEF Implementing and Executing agencies and the private and non-profit sectors.

A number of ongoing IW:LEARN activities support these goals in Dalian and thereafter. First and foremost, IW:LEARN is conducting its biennial assessment of GEF IW community needs at the IWC. The needs survey focuses on transboundary water issues projects face and the management tools needed address these issues. Project personnel are also gleaning community knowledge informally, listening for needs and resources during conference working groups and regional lunches. Finally, IW:LEARN's Pilot Phase evaluator, Dr. Laurence Mee, is interviewing beneficiaries of the project's services. Collected information will inform plans for IW:LEARN to further serve the GEF IW community during the project's Implementation Phase (2003-2007).

In Dalian, IW:LEARN is showcasing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools developed by IW projects for transboundary waters management (TWM). Those interested in learning about these tools are invited to presentations during conference registration and at

IW:LEARN's exhibit throughout the week. Demonstrations include projects' off-line hypertext files and Web sites, interactive videos, maps and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and integrated database applications.

IW:LEARN will also present two ICT applications for knowledge sharing across the GEF IW portfolio. The UNEP-IW:LEARN Environmental Insights database (www.eco-insight.org) documents innovative solutions and lessons learned from initiatives addressing transboundary water issues. The GEF-IW:LEARN International Waters Resource Centre (IWRC - www.iwlearn.net) provides access to GEF IW project profiles, learning opportunities and knowledge resources to benefit TWM across participating countries. Feedback from conference participants will also be used to improve the usability and strategically extend the knowledge base of both systems, in order to better serve GEF IW projects.

IW:LEARN's exhibit serves as a collection and dissemination point for knowledge products produced by the GEF IW community. In addition to circulating CD-ROMs from other projects, IW:LEARN produced a special conference CD-ROM version of the IWRC. IW:LEARN is also collecting and electronically publishing IWC proceedings via the IWRC, as well as making the CD-ROM version available for order. These proceedings capture participants' needs, lessons, best practices, and knowledge products from the working groups and plenary sessions.

The IWC provides a unique biennial opportunity for the GEF IW community to learn from one another and build

partnerships across projects and regions. GEF IW projects are encouraged to approach IW:LEARN to jointly develop additional knowledge sharing and capacity building initiatives together to present at the third International Waters Conference (2004). For more information, please contact Dann Sklarew (dann@iwlearn.org).

NEW TOOL TO SUPPORT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

The GEF's San Juan River Basin project (PROCUEENCA-SAN JUAN) and IW:LEARN are collaborating to develop a database which tracks the roles and relationships of multiple stakeholders in the basin. The institutional mapping tool was conceived and designed by PROCUEENCA-SAN JUAN, as part of its efforts towards the formulation of the Strategic Action Program for the San Juan River Basin and its Coastal Zone of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. IW:LEARN joined efforts in development of the tool, contributing with its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) expertise.

One component of PROCUEENCA-SAN JUAN's Strategic Action Program (SAP) calls for, "a basin-wide information system that provides mechanisms for gathering and disseminating data adequate for making decisions on integrated basin management." PROCUEENCA-SAN JUAN intends to use this tool to effectively promote ownership of the project by all stakeholders, build the institutional arrangements for the execution of the SAP, and monitor public participation in its various activities and phases of the project.

The institutional mapping tool helps keep track of people and organizations, activities, and administrative/legal arrangements relevant to the project and basin. Users can access a series of on-screen queries and printable reports to gather information on, for example, how organizations and people are involved with specific project activities. The tool can also map activities by basin location and area of action. The Organization of American States (OAS) and IW:LEARN are working together to enhance the tool to include tracking multi-stakeholder participation and spatial queries integrated with the project's Geographical Information System (GIS).

The institutional mapping tool is being demonstrated at the GEF International Waters Conference in Dalian, China. On the first full day of the conference Pablo González OAS Task Manager of the PROCUEENCA-SAN JUAN, is demonstrating the tool, its purpose, functionality, and outputs. He is also explaining its origin in the PROCUEENCA-SAN JUAN's strategy for building the institutional arrange-

ments for the execution of the SAP, and exhibiting a prototype of the tool at their Dalian booth.

The institutional mapping tool represents an important milestone in knowledge sharing. It provides a method for stakeholders involved in the various activities of a given GEF IW project to easily obtain information on strategic agreements, roles and contact information for any participating entity. Replication of the tool across the GEF IW community will be an important IW:LEARN contribution. The database will be standardized for use by other GEF projects to address similar needs. Please contact Pablo González (pgonzalez@oas.org) or Mish Hamid (mish@iwlearn.org) for further information.

SUSTAINABLE IW SCHOLARSHIP FUND LAUNCHED

The Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) has played an active role in promoting regional cooperation and learning about marine conservation issues. The GEF project recently supported regional workshops concerning environmental assessment, Marine Protected Areas, navigation risks and living marine resources. Financial constraints often limit countries' participation in these and related learning opportunities, however. Through a joint education financing pilot project with IW:LEARN, PERSGA aims to provide maximum environmental benefits to the countries and residents of the region through institutional strengthening and capacity building.

The regional PERSGA Fellowship Programme will help provide access to International Waters (IW) related educational opportunities through financial aid that is culturally appropriate to the Arab community, in order to increase nations' IW management capacity. Based on Islamic values, the Fellowship Programme will support strongly needed training through financing mechanisms attractive to both beneficiaries (students) and investors. The Programme aims to award support to a first round of applicants by Fall 2002.

PERSGA is providing seed money to the scholarship fund, with plans to attract other donors and investors. IW:LEARN has designated two International Waters Fellows to assist in the development of financial, educational and marketing guidelines: Nabil El-Arabi, Networked Education Economist IW Fellow, teaches at the Economics Department of the University of Alexandria, Egypt. Walid Hegazy, Islamic Finance IW Fellow, is a doctoral candidate doing research with the Islamic Finance Information Program at Harvard University, USA. For more informa-

tion, contact Janot Mendler (janot@iwlearn.org).

PURSUING SIGNIFICANT WATER TARGETS IN JOHANNESBURG PLAN

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), nations agreed to significant global targets for international water resources management. The resultant Johannesburg Plan of Implementation aims to:

- Halve the proportion of people without safe drinking water and adequate sanitation by 2015
- Cease destructive fishing practices and establish marine protected areas and networks by 2012
- Maintain or restore fish stocks to levels that can be sustainably harvested by not later than 2015

The Plan also commits countries to significantly reduce biodiversity loss by 2010. For more information on the Plan, visit www.johannesburgsummit.org.

Actions to pursue these targets will be supported through existing multilateral institutions -- including the UN, The World Bank and the GEF -- as well as new sources of financing, like the European Union Water Initiative. IW:LEARN is working with GEF agencies to identify and characterize emerging sources of co-financing for International Waters (IW) projects. Initial results will be disseminated by IW:LEARN in 2003. For more information please contact Mish Hamid (mish@iwlearn.org).

GEF PROJECTS EXHIBIT AT WSSD WATERDOME

As WSSD grabbed headlines in August 2002, side events around Johannesburg contributed to the deliberations and education of over 40,000 local and international participants.

The five-day WaterDome conference and exhibition, in particular, assembled water resource managers, development agencies, businesses and civil society representatives. Opened by former South African President Nelson Mandela, the WaterDome aimed to increase water awareness during the World Summit.

Several Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects contributed to this goal through various exhibitions and events at the Dome. IW:LEARN co-directed an exhibit with GEF, IMO, UNIDO and UNDP which showcased GEF projects such as the Benguela Current (BCLME), Guinea Current (GCLME), East Asian Seas (PEMSEA), ballast water (GloBallast), and the Marine Electric Highway. Each presentation included a multi-media mix of interactive software, video and posters. Other GEF IW projects repre-

sented in Johannesburg included the Nile Basin Initiative, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), and TRAIN-SEA-COAST (TSC). All three GEF implementing agencies also demonstrated their waters-related activities, e.g. UNDP's local capacity building network (Cap-Net), UNEP's Collaborating Center on Water and Environment, and the World Bank's Netherlands Water Partnership Program.

GEF PARTNERS LIGHT THE WAY TO COASTAL & MARINE RESTORATION

After the World Summit reached international agreement to restore Earth's fisheries, the question is "how?" Local, regional and global environmental managers and scientists met at the WaterDome to use their own experience to guide the coastal and marine restoration process.

The capacity-building event, "Integrative Approaches to Environmental Management: Experiences of the GEF Coastal and Marine Projects," gathered southern and central African, East Asian and global-scale project managers together with local government and scientific community representatives to share their experiences. Coordinated by IW:LEARN, participants conveyed key insights dealing with coastal and marine partnerships, projects and management areas.

Regarding coastal and marine partnerships, it was stated that there is an urgent need to integrate national, regional, and local institutions, to solve together their common problems. Getting governments to cooperate is difficult - especially at the local level - but essential to effective coastal and marine management. Project development should incorporate the needs and interests of local communities as partners and beneficiaries. Scientists' efforts should respect those interests.

Private sector involvement requires finesse as well: Business partners act in self-interest, greater at the local rather than at the national level, since public relations wins occur at smaller scales. Thus, on-the-ground demonstration projects are effective and enduring investments for the private sector, with notable impacts on potential customers.

Since large-scale environmental improvements require extensive preparation, coordination and outreach, projects should be designed to extend over 10-year cycles (versus 3-5 currently). Over such duration, project implementation should be flexible and adaptable to evolving circumstances and priorities. Environmental managers need to guide and support applied science related to international waters, communicating such to decision-makers and their constituents. Furthermore, enthusiasm must be continually

injected into the process.

Environmental management efforts require further integration of land, freshwater, coastal and offshore marine components. The Large Marine Ecosystem (LME), characterized by specific bathymetry and hydrography, is a valuable regional management unit for reducing pollution, restoring damaged habitats (e.g., reefs, mangroves, sea forests), and recovering depleted fisheries. Local coastal and marine activities can be coordinated and mutually instructive across national borders by appropriate use of emerging ICT tools.

IW COMMUNITY NEWS

BALLAST WATER TRAINING PROGRESS

From Ballast Water News Issue 9: April - June 2002

Development of modular ballast water management training packages commenced with a planning workshop in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Training is an essential component of implementing both port-based and shipboard ballast water management arrangements. Currently, there are no standardized, international curricula or model courses relating to IMO ballast water requirements. The development of such training is therefore a key activity of the GloBallast Programme. In undertaking this task, GloBallast has adopted the UN Train-X methodology. It has been applied by seven different UN agencies in a wide range of subject areas.

Train-X focuses on the careful analysis of training needs and learner characteristics, the development of course materials using experts, followed by delivery through performance-based instruction and a process of validation and continuous both specialist course developers and subject matter improvement.

TSC Centres in Brazil and South Africa are undertaking the actual ballast water course development. The Uruguay planning workshop mapped-out a full process to complete the modules for validation and delivery by the end of 2002.

RECENT IW:LEARN ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Published findings of GEF IW LAC (2001) and GEF IW Managers (2002) forums Launched e-forum for Marine Protected Area community of practice
- ✓ Organized GEF coastal and marine projects forum and exhibit at WSSD WaterDome
- ✓ Graduated 9 African regional planners from ICM distance learning course with EcoAfrica
- ✓ Helped develop IW institutional mapping tool with OAS
- ✓ Launched Regional Fellowship Programme w/PERSGA
- ✓ Agreed to distance GEF TDA/SAP course with TSC
- ✓ Agreed to jointly develop a network of water portals with UNESCO
- ✓ On-going product development with and for individual GEF IW projects

NEXT QUARTER IW:LEARN GOALS

- ◆ Publish electronic proceedings of 2002 GEF IW Conference in Dalian
- ◆ Name PERSGA Fellowship financial aid recipients
- ◆ Perform usability test and refine needs and resources database
- ◆ Develop 4-6 dynamic web sites with individual projects
- ◆ Deploy Red Sea Integrated Coastal Management course
- ◆ Pursue 6-12 additional ICT projects using CD, email, print, and radio media
- ◆ Create new Support Facilities in conjunction with regional projects
- ◆ Submit Phase II project brief to GEF



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