



IW:LEARN

The GEF International Waters
Learning Exchange and Resource
Network

GEF IW:LEARN Objective



To strengthen Transboundary Waters Management (TWM) by facilitating learning and information sharing among stakeholders.



A. Facilitating Access to Information on Transboundary Water Resources

Immediate Objective:

To facilitate the integration, exchange and accessibility of data and information across GEF IW project sites to IW projects, their partners and stakeholders.

Expected Result:

95% of GEF IW projects have established Web sites, based on a common format and linked to a comprehensive information network.

Progress: IW Resource Centre v1.0 released, v2.0 by 2006; information network toolkit 1.0 released



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Water resource managers will find through this site pertinent information resources; discussion forums; project information and documentation; courses in water resources, project management, and information technology; new capacity building technologies; and community-wide news and upcoming events.



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RESOURCES

> [\[NEW\] Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators for GEF International Waters Projects](#)

This paper describes the role of M&E relative to the GEF international waters focal area and specifically identifies an indicator framework for countries to employ as part of the M&E process.

[more GEF-related documents](#)

> [Model Project Documents](#)

UNDP-GEF provides sample international waters (IW) project documents for your proposal and project management efforts.

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Newest Resources Added

Document-Newsletter - [IW:LEARN Salvador IWC3 Special Edition Newsletter](#)

Event-Proceedings-GEF - [Workshop on Information Management and Public Participation in Transboundary Water Cooperation](#)

Document/Knowledge Products - [St. Petersburg Workshop Participant List](#)

Document-Presentation - [CWC project objective and outcome of the first workshop on the legal basis for transboundary water cooperation \(Bo Libert\) - Powerpoint - 355kb](#)

Document-Presentation - [Focus Groups, Citizens' Juries and Open Space method: Innovative tools of public involvement in water management \(Kati Kanqur\) - Powerpoint - 2.4mb](#)

Document-Presentation - Public

B. Structured Learning Among IW Projects and Cooperating Partners



Immediate Objective:

To establish and technically support face-to-face and electronically-mediated learning exchanges among related GEF IW projects.

Results:

- 10 - 20 projects share experiences within 3-5 regions
- 20 - 30 " share experiences within 3-4 IW themes
- 10 - 14 " share via 5-7 inter-project staff exchanges
- 15+ projects increase public participation capacity

C. Coordinating Biennial GEF International Waters Conferences



Immediate Objective:

To hold GEF IW conferences in 2005 and 2007, gathering the IW community for sharing experience among GEF IW projects, stakeholders, evaluators and other IW programs and institutions.

Result:

The GEF hosts two comprehensive reviews (2005, 2007) of the GEF IW portfolio, including exchange of experience within the portfolio and with related transboundary waters programs.

Progress: 3rd GEF IW Conference, Salvador, Brazil

D. Testing Innovative Approaches to Strengthen IW Portfolio Implementation



Immediate Objective:

To test and replicate novel approaches and ICT tools to meet IW stakeholder needs.

Result:

GEF agencies develop, test and, where successful, replicate regional, sub-regional and thematic demonstrations for improving Transboundary Water Management among GEF IW projects.

E. Fostering Partnerships to Sustain Benefits of IW:LEARN & Technical Support



Immediate Objective:

To sustain and institutionalize information sharing and learning exchanges across GEF IW projects, partners and stakeholders, including INBO and its member organizations

Results:

GEF agencies implement a strategic plan to sustain IW:LEARN project benefits to the GEF IW community



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From The Source

By Al Duda and Andrea Morla

On behalf of the Global Environment Facility Secretariat and its Implementing Agencies, we welcome those readers joining us in Salvador, Brazil, for the third GEF International Waters Conference. Many have already noticed that this year's conference is a little different: it part of the new GEF International Waters:LEARN Project that focuses on learning needs through structured learning and information sharing activities.

Between World Water Day 2005 and now, you may have participated in one of IW:LEARN's four new electronic forums — parallel tracks for aquifers, river basins, lake basins and marine ecosystems. Results from the first season of these peer-to-peer email discussions will serve as inputs into a series of three breakout sessions during the IW Conference. Learning priorities from these sessions will then form the basis of a biennial learning agenda within each track, culminating in the fourth IW Conference in Africa in 2007.

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Exchanges Open Channels Between GEF IW Projects

IW:LEARN is pleased to announce the official launch of its innovative and exciting Inter-project Stakeholder Exchange Program. This program aims to enhance transfer and adaptation of practical experience among GEF projects and partners to enhance capacity in any aspect of International Waters (IW) management.

Here's how the program works: GEF-supported IW projects and water-related projects in the GEF pipeline propose representatives to visit or host multi-week study missions. Representatives may include project personnel, affiliated officials, scientists, non-governmental organization leaders, and policy makers. Over two to six weeks, hosts and guests share experiences face-to-face and learn from each other in practical ways through collaborative interactions. Through this process, participating projects are expected to increase institutional capacity to replicate best practices and lessons learned across GEF projects and regions.

A 2004 pilot program offered participating GEF IW projects a chance to exchange staff. Their after-action reports cited a variety of tangible benefits from the sponsored exchanges:

Based on their experience with the Mediterranean Information Office, Danube Environmental Forum plans to "change the rules of communication with network members" and "develop an advanced NGO database, which will fully meet the needs for effective and fast communication with members." The information management and data dissemination within and outside the network will also be improved. (Monica Kovacova, DEF Project Coordinator)

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

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IW:LEARN partners include:





For more information



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 - GEF International Waters Resource Centre www.iwlearn.net
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