

Panel Abstract

Name of Session: Special Session on Monitoring and Evaluation

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Panel Background

This presentation will describe the purpose, nature and timing of the International Waters Program Study being conducted under the auspices of the Monitoring and Evaluation Section of the GEF Secretariat.

Background: The GEF Operational Strategy (OS) for International Waters¹ was developed to respond to the main global environmental issues that threaten transboundary water resources. The Operational Programs (OPs 8, 9 and 10) further defined the issues.

The Second Study of GEF's Overall Performance (OPS2) will focus on the assessment of the GEF's program results and initial impacts. It will evaluate the GEF's overall strategies and programmatic impacts, achievement of the objectives of GEF's Operational Policies and Programs, and review the modalities of GEF support. OPS2 will be carried out by a fully independent team appointed in consultation with the GEF Council.

Purpose: The International Waters Program Study is intended to contribute to the OPS2 through a systematic and critical assessment of the International Waters portfolio. The Program Study will assess whether the GEF is addressing the priority issues in each geographical setting and to evaluate how well it is responding to the threats. The Program Study will focus on the coverage of GEF international waters programs, as well as results and preliminary impacts.

Execution and Timing: The Program Study will be undertaken internally by the GEF M&E Team together with the GEF Secretariat Land and Water Team and the Implementing Agencies.

The Program Study will be undertaken from July 2000 to February 2001, with early results fed to the OPS2 team, which is expected to begin work around January 2001. Country level field work will be carried out during September-December 2000. Final completion of the Program Study will take place in January-February 2001.

Modus Operandi: The Program Study will utilize a variety of methodologies tracking down the coverage, results and initial impacts. These methodologies cover quantitative analyses of project documentation, review of evaluation reports, interviews with task managers in the implementing agencies, questionnaires and interviews with project personnel, and selected field visits. Agreed indicators will be used for the Study (cf. paragraph 13).

Focus: The global transboundary issues that form the priority areas of action for the GEF have been identified in the GEF OS. Each one of these issues, itemized below, is a subject of an international treaty or agreement, or an intergovernmental process intended to lead to one.

- I) Freshwater Basin Scarcity and Ecosystem Conflicts (in particular, but not exclusively, in Africa and the Middle East) (Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses);
- II) Freshwater Basin and Coastal Pollution and Sedimentation (Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses);
- III) Degradation of Transboundary Groundwater Systems (Bellagio Draft Transboundary Groundwater Treaty);
- IV) Degradation of Wetland Ecosystems, particularly transboundary ones² (Ramsar Convention; Convention on Biodiversity);
- V) Coastal/Marine Nutrient Overenrichment (Global Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities);
- VI) Persistent Toxic Substances (POPs Convention);
- VII) Coastal and Marine Fisheries (Law of the Sea);
- VIII) Ship-Related Contaminants (MARPOL).

Study Issues: The specific questions relating to the strategic and implementation issues have been defined as follows:

Strategic Issues

Question 1: Have the OPs served well as a means of permitting and encouraging submissions on priority transboundary water-related issues?

Question 2: Is there evidence of coherence and communication among IW projects relating respectively to:

i) specific regional areas;

and

ii) specific issues that have transboundary significance and global importance.

Question 3: For projects representing “demonstrations” intended to constitute methods and/or mechanisms for application elsewhere, are they effective and are there pitfalls to be avoided or corrected in the approach?

Question 4: Are projects conceived to improve developing country alignment and involvement in regional agreements contributing to the effectiveness and commitment to such regional agreements?

Question 5: Assuming there exists consensus that the TDA/SAP approach offers substantial benefits in facilitating multilateral agreement on priority issues in large regional areas and provides a basis for optimizing resource allocations to actions for addressing major problems in regions, to what extent is there evidence of the increasing application of the TDA/SAP approach and how can it be fostered and accelerated?

Implementation Issue

Question 6: Is collaboration and consultation among the Implementing Agencies adequate for the purposes of single IA project implementation or are their features that would make it desirable for increased multi-IA implementation of projects?

Component Analyses: For each of these questions, specific analyses have been designed to address them.