

GEF Technical Freshwaters Workshop 24-25 Oct 2009

Global Changes and Water Resources Workshop

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Thanks to all participants!

First GEF integrated workshop SW and GW !!!

Copy of presentations & summary

- <http://www.iwlearn.net>
- <Http://www.jcu-hydrology-lab.com>

1. Key challenges

1.1 Improved climatic change estimates:

- more precise estimate of the future changes: esp intensity, duration, frequency of rainfall
- at a scale relevant for basin studies & modelling
- to include interactions and feedbacks between hydrosphere and biosphere inside the water cycle.

1. Key challenges

1.2 Other components of the global change:

Consider not just climate change but all global environmental changes, e.g.

- changes in land-use and land-cover and especially the role of agriculture;
- water diversions (dams, drainage of wetlands);

1. Key challenges

1.3 Towards “True” integrated water management:

To consider all aspects water issues in a unified vision

- coupled or interconnected physical models for surface and ground water systems, and transfers to the oceans;
- linked physical models and socio-economic approaches;
- move from Linear World to complex and non-stationary state

2. Governments and institutions

2.1 Climatic change

- to sign and implement CO2 reduction international conventions;
- to dramatically reduce CO2 emissions now to avoid 3 or 4 degrees global warming;
- Sense of URGENCY! Rates and magnitudes of changes observed exceeds early estimations

2.2 Land management

- To reconsider connections between land and water management

2.3 Transboundary water conventions

- to complement the present set of international water conventions (particularly for **GROUNWATER**);
- to enforce the present laws and regulations.

2.4 Definition of global, transboundary, national and local scales

- which uses, or consequences of water uses, or water-related activities (transfer of energy, agricultural products) have or will have a transboundary importance?
- which national issues (policy, management, etc) have a transboundary component?

3. GEF assistance

3.1 In-situ observation networks:

- support deployment and maintenance
- necessary to identify long-term trends (change), effects of management actions (targets reached?);
- being able to address the social and environmental demand.

3.2 Stakeholders involvement and targeted capacity building:

- dissemination and training;
- science and society.

3.3 Contingency plans:

- help the preparation of joint contingency plans

3.4 Water cycle as a common reference framework for further GEF programmes



The GEF International Waters Conference, Cairns

October 24 – 25th 2009

International Water Law: the UN GA Resolution

Ambassador Chusei Yamada

Stockholm WWW "007

Codification of International Law for Transboundary Aquifers by the United Nations

UN Resolution

63/124

December 11 2008

- Takes note of the draft articles
- Encourages the States concerned to make appropriate arrangements, taking into account the provisions of the draft articles
- Decides to consider the final form of the draft articles

During the workshop particular emphasis was given to the management of Transboundary Aquifers.

A comprehensive inventory of 273 TBA, compiled by UNESCO, was presented, showing that there are shared aquifers in almost all continents, that they are unequally known; that they occupy around 20% of the earth's surface and that more than 2 billion people depend on these systems.

Then a recommendation for the next GEF replenishment is to consider the opportunity provided by the UN GA resolution as a new tool of international law.

The resolution on the Law of transboundary aquifers was adopted by consensus by UN member states last December 2008.

In line with goals of the GEF, the resolution encourages the States concerned to make appropriate bilateral or regional arrangements for the proper management of their transboundary aquifers taking into account the recommendations contained in the annexed draft articles. It affirms the importance of international cooperation for the sustainable development of these systems for present and future generation

the support of the GEF will considerably help countries to implement the recommendations.