

RAISING THE BAR: 20 YEARS OF GEF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESULTS

THE SIXTH GEF BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL
WATERS CONFERENCE



Dubrovnik, Croatia
17-20 October 2011
www.iwlearn.net/iwc2011

First Announcement

What is the GEF and its International Waters Focal Area?

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) – www.thegef.org, unites 182 member governments - in partnership with international institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and the private



CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS

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sector — to address global environmental issues. An independent financial organization, the GEF provides grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. These projects benefit the global environment, linking local, national, and global environmental challenges and promoting sustainable livelihoods

The GEF International Waters (IW) focal area targets transboundary water systems, such as shared river basins, lakes, groundwater and large marine ecosystems. The IW portfolio comprises to date 170 projects and consists of some US\$1.2 billion of GEF grants invested in 149 different countries globally. This investment has leveraged approximately US\$5 billion in co-financing. By all accounts and evaluations, since the inception of the GEF in 1991, the IW portfolio has delivered substantive results and replicable experiences to be scaled-up and mainstreamed globally.

What is the IWC6, its objectives and theme?

The Sixth GEF Biennial International Waters Conference, as with prior IW Conferences, will be a signature learning event for the GEF IW focal area. It will be an active training and experience-sharing event during which the participants will not only sum up the progress achieved but also will look into the future of programming within and beyond the focal area. The general objective of the Biennial GEF International Waters Conference is to facilitate cross-sectoral and portfolio-wide learning & experience sharing. It is also to solicit advice from the existing IW portfolio on burning issues and assist in building participant capacity in key management and technical areas.

The Conference will be organized under the slogan **Raising the Bar: 20 Years of GEF Transboundary Water Results**, and will focus on knowledge sharing on water management issues and results after 20 years of interventions. The Conference also has the objective to promote public-private partnerships in support of better water management and identification of modalities for their development.

This year's Conference will coincide with the 20th anniversary of the GEF's establishment. As such, the IWC6 will focus on the transboundary results & impacts of the GEF International waters portfolio after 20 years and they inform programming for the future. There will be sub-themes focusing on environmental finance (featuring a first-time corporate and social responsibility roundtable with private sector companies), as well as considerations of the institutional & sectoral transformation.

Who are its participants?

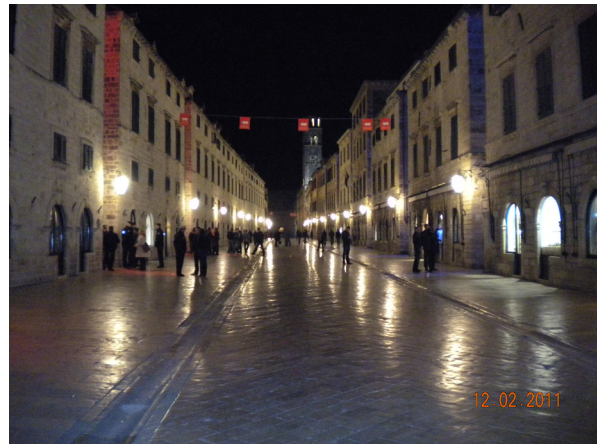
The IWC6 will convene at least 300 participants, including GEF IW project managers, representatives of beneficiary countries, non-governmental organizations, transboundary management institutions, UN agencies and the private sector. Collectively they will represent about 70 active GEF IW projects, 80 countries and the various GEF Agencies. Participants are invited by the GEF Agencies implementing IW projects.

What is the conference structure and when will the 20 Years of GEF IW be celebrated?

The IWC6 will feature an innovation marketplace (exhibit area), extensive opportunities for focused learning on scientific and technical innovations, interactive training for IW project managers and country representatives, interaction with the GEF Secretariat, GEF agencies and several partner institutions working on International Waters projects.

The Conference will also feature participant-directed workshops and round-table discussions, as well as offering the highly unique and unprecedented option of undertaking technical site visits to multiple GEF IW projects in a transboundary context around Dubrovnik, in some cases to the neighboring countries of Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro. While visiting the sites the participants will be able to discuss and share their experiences in the context of actual projects. Participants will be able to take part in visiting the sites where the IW projects are being implemented and have an opportunity to discuss and share their experiences.

As mentioned, part of the Conference will be dedicated to the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of GEF IW focal area. Although the main focus of this event will be on the future of the Global Environment Facility and identification of the path forward, participants will also be able showcase achievements and results from the IW project portfolio since the creation of GEF in 1991. This will culminate in a Gala dinner celebrating the 20th anniversary of GEF IW on **19 October 2011**. Senior management and representatives from the private sector will also join.



Call for Sponsors

The Organizers of the Conference appreciate any financial and/or in-kind support, including with the promotion of the Conference and its objectives. The IWC6 offers a chance to engage a major cross-section of the actors engaged in managing an essential resource that has, in most cases, only international solutions. Working closely in partnership with multilateral, bilateral and private sector actors is vital to the success of GEF IW portfolio.

This support may include:

- ◆ Assistance with conference logistics
- ◆ Assistance with the production of promotional materials
- ◆ Assistance with the organization social and cultural events

At the same time though, through the participation in the Conference you will be able demonstrating your achievements, products and materials, as well as share your views on the GEF development with other participants. Your logo will be used on Conference materials and

you will have an opportunity to use the Conference logo on your products. Your contributions will be specially acknowledged by Conference Organizers and Officials.

Please note a few important dates

Launch of the Conference Web Site	March 2011
Publication of the Conference Brochure and other Promotional Materials	April 2011
Invitation Letters and Second Announcement with the Conference Programme	April 2011
Registration Opens	July 2011
Finalization of Visa Arrangements	1 Sept. 2011
Closure of Registration	15 Sept. 2011
Targeted Workshops for GEF IW Project Managers & GEF Agencies	15-16 October
6 th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference	17-20 October
Technical Site Visits to GEF IW Projects	18 October
Corporate and Social Responsibility Roundtable	19 October
Gala Dinner: Celebrating 20 Years of GEF Transboundary Water Results	19 October

For those who need visas

This is essential information for all participants.

Many people will need to acquire a visa for Croatia in order to attend the IWC. In addition, for people participating in the technical site visits to either Bosnia & Herzegovina or Montenegro, you will need a visa for either of those countries, as well as a multiple-entry visa Croatia.

Please visit the following relevant web sites to acquire information on whether you need visas to enter Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and/or Montenegro, please review the information carefully.

Croatia Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.hr/MVP.asp?pcpid=1615>

Bosnia & Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Affairs: http://www.mfa.ba/konzularne_informacije/vize/

Montenegro Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mip.gov.me/en/index.php/Visas-for-Foreign-Citizens/>

A visit to the web sites will help you to know whether you need visa to these countries or not, and what will be the procedure for visa issuance if you need one. Although it is too early to apply for visa now, (e.g. in Croatia visa application may be submitted not earlier than three months prior to the entry day), please start thinking about it now and make all necessary arrangements on time. The conference organizers will make arrangements with all three countries to make the visa acquisition process smoother, however, you will still need to initiate the process yourself.

Who organizes the IWC?

The GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN) is responsible for organizing the IWC. The project is implemented jointly by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme, with UNDP leading on supervision of the IWC. The Global Environment Facility itself also leads on the conference organization. Finally, the conference will not be possible without the critical support of the UNEP-hosted Mediterranean Action Plan for the Barcelona Convention, which executes the Mediterranean Regional project as well as the critical support of the Croatian Government via the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management.



GEF IW:LEARN seeks to strengthen global portfolio experience sharing and learning, dialogue facilitation, targeted knowledge sharing and replication in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of GEF IW projects to deliver tangible results in partnership with other IW initiatives. Its services include knowledge management, technical support services, peer-to-peer learning exchanges, support to communities of practice, targeted training workshops and portfolio-wide learning through the IWC's. Please see www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn.

A Steering Committee exists to oversee the coordination and programming of the 6th Biennial GEF International Waters Conference and ensure its strategic role in the context of international waters management. Its membership includes all of the GEF Agencies.



In addition, the conference will be organized with the support of many important actors. The most important of which will be the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The governments of Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina will also provide critical support. At a regional level, the conference will dialogue with all major regional organizations with an interest in water-management, including inter alia Global Water Partnership Mediterranean, Regional Cooperation Council, Sava River Basin Commission.

For More Information: Contacts

Starting from February, please visit the Conference web site <http://www.iwlearn.net/iwc2011> for up to date information on the IWC, including travel, visa and other administrative arrangements.

For all questions, please contact Conference Secretariat iwc6@iwlearn.org.

For more information on the five previous IWC's, please visit <http://www.iwlearn.net/iwc2009>, [/iwc2007](http://www.iwlearn.net/iwc2007), [/iwc2005](http://www.iwlearn.net/iwc2005), [/iwc2002](http://www.iwlearn.net/iwc2002) and [/iwc2000](http://www.iwlearn.net/iwc2000).