



# GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL WATERS ASSESSMENT

GIWA Newsletter no: 8 November 2001

**Dear GIWA friends,**

first of all, let me thank all you GIWA partners and friends who participated in our General Assembly. The meeting was certainly very successful. 32 Focal Points from the GIWA sub-regions participated at the event. In total the General Assembly had 113 participants from 38 different countries. This venture really showed the progress of the GIWA. Results were presented that attracted attention way beyond the area of the GIWA partners. The GIWA General Assembly was reported in Swedish Radio and Television, and in leading national and international newspapers.



The participants were rewarded after a long day of hard work.

During the General Assembly important links were created between the different GIWA participants globally. This will build GIWA as a global collaborating effort, a framework for sharing our experiences and competence. We are now in an excellent position to undertake the remaining phases of the GIWA assessment and ensure a successful completion of the GIWA project.

To all our readers I encourage you to follow GIWA's development. Reports are now starting to come through and they will continuously be available on our web site.

Dag Daler

## Letter for Africans

I have developed this obsession of reading Gaia's letter every evening before I go to bed. Gaia's letter starts thus "I worry about all my continents, but you, poor Africa, are the land of my deepest concern. I had the most magnificent dreams for you when you were taking form. You were my pride and joy, the cradle of men, draped in your ample cloak of forests, with such diverse scenery and wildlife. When my turbulent Europe was spitting smoke from her blackened lungs, I sought solace by your great placid, watching the canoes go by...Rivers of men leave the countryside to enter the tormented ghettos of the cities. Your population is exploding; poor men condemned to pain and deprivations....I am begging you, do not forget the originality of multiple cultures. Even if you need the north to keep your body alive, don't forget that even the north needs you to save its soul. Love, Gaia

Gaia which is a Greek name for "Earth" or "Mother" was inspired by the writings of Sheikh Kane, A Senegalese writers and composed by Fancois Falloux with the collaboration of Dr. Abdoulaye Sawadogo. (For full text, see Gaia an inspirational letter for Africans.) It sends a strong message to us on using our resources in a sustainable manner. It is against this background that I have personally hailed the GIWA strategy of providing the ownership of the project to the local people. It is greatly appreciated by African experts who have been working tirelessly this past few months to produce the first reports on scaling and scooping exercise.



Edith Mussukuya

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## GIWA ASSESSMENTS IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

After the first GIWA General Assembly, it is now time to reflect on the past, the present and most importantly the future GIWA activities in Sub Saharan Africa. The months of September and October 2001 were fully utilized with scaling and scoping work-shops in four sub regions. Somali Coastal current held their work-shop the second week of September. This was closely followed by a similar workshop in Maputo for the Agulhas Current. Benguela Current held similar workshop in Cape Town and the East African Lakes held theirs in the first week of October. Prior to September, Gulf of Guinea Current had held the workshop in mid August.

The GIWA strategy, which by the way seem to be working out perfectly in SSA is the fact that the local experts have to have full control and ownership of the project. One needs to be in one of these workshops to witness the professional expression of commitment to the work.



The Task team of Somali Coastal Current Sub region 46 comprises of nine members drawn from both marine and freshwater, socio -economist as well as medical doctors. The team spirit is so evident, the two camps, freshwater and marine water work in harmony. After three days of serious deliberations on the scaling and scoping, the task team came to the conclusions that freshwater shortage and unsustainable exploitation of fisheries and other living resources were the critical concerns in the region.

Six experts attended the scaling and scoping work shop in Maputo for the Agulhas Current. Mozambique, South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and Botswana. The team had a blend of marine-, freshwater- and socio-economic experts. The task of applying the GIWA methodology to this sub region with ten different countries as one system was a challenge. The scaling and scoping report was ready on the third day of the work shop. Freshwater shortages and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources were identified as the critical concerns in Agulhas Current.

The East African Lakes carried out there work shop the first week of October. The task team comprised of twelve experts drawn from all the stakeholder countries representing a broad range of expertise. The assessment focused on Lake Victoria, Kivu, Edward, Tanganyika, Malawi, Turkana, Natron and Chala. The most serious concern according to the assessment findings are freshwater shortages and habitat and community modification.

The assessment of Benguela Current was held in Cape Town, South Africa in September. This was the second round table discussion on the GIWA assessment. The first work shop that was held in April, 2001, was based on version 6 of the GIWA Methodology. This second work shop concentrated mainly on the socio-economic sections that had undergone modification. According to the expertise findings, all the five concerns are severe in the sub region which in most cases were more severe in freshwater compared to marine water.

In the Gulf of Guinea freshwater shortages and pollution were identified as the main concerns. Concerns over loss or modification of habitats especially in marine ecosystems were rife.

## GIWA Assessments in the Middle East

We are happy to announce that we have reached an agreement with UNEP ROWA in Bahrain to coordinate the GIWA Assessments in the Sub-regions 48 (Gulf of Aden), 49 (Red Sea), 50 (Persian/Arabian Gulf), and 51 (Jordan River). The work will be implemented in close collaboration with ROPME and PERSCA. A Scaling and Scooping Work-shop will be held early in 2002.

## GIWA is presented in ASLO Bulletin

The Bulletin of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography have published the article "Assessing the Status of International Waters" by Dag Daler, Elina Rautalahti-Miettinen and Sara Gräslund, Aslo Bulletin Vol 10(3), September 2001, pp 37-41. The article is available on GIWAs Web site: [www.giwa.net](http://www.giwa.net).

## GIWA Southeast Asia Sub-region Assessment Workshop, November 5-8 in Bangkok

A Workshop for the Southeast/East/South Asian Sub-regions will be held in Bangkok November 5-8, coordinated by Dr. Anond Snidvongs. Representatives from a number of GIWA Sub-regions are expected to participate.