



IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: April 2009

Re-Submission Date: 2 September 2009

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

GEF PROJECT ID¹: 3900

PROJECT DURATION: 37 months

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 4219

COUNTRY(IES): Global

PROJECT TITLE: GEF IW:LEARN: "Strengthening IW Portfolio Delivery and Impact."

GEF AGENCY(IES): UNDP, UNEP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): UNOPS, UNESCO, GWP-MED

GEF FOCAL AREA (S)²: International Waters

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): Cross-cutting IW SP 1, 2, 3, 4

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT (if applicable): MENARID

INDICATIVE CALENDAR*	
Milestones	Expected Dates mm/dd/yyyy
Work Program (for FSP)	November 2009
CEO Endorsement/Approval	January 2011
Agency Approval Date	February 2011
Implementation Start	March 2011
Mid-term Evaluation (if planned)	October 2012
Project Closing Date	April 2014

* See guidelines for definition of milestones.

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: 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.

Project Components	Indicate whether Investment, TA, or STA ^b	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing ^a		Indicative Co-Financing ^a		Total (\$) c = a + b
				(\$) ^a	%	(\$) ^b	%	
1. MENARID Support via Land/Ground Water Integrated Management through Regional Portfolio Learning & Dialogue	TA, STA	1) Improved effectiveness in combating Land Degradation in MENARID through an enhanced role of groundwater and improved subsurface space management 2) Enabling Mediterranean regional inter-basin coordination 3) Enhanced management capacity of institutions and projects partners.	a) Mechanisms for integration of groundwater dimensions within the MENARID program projects (UNESCO ³) b) Regional approaches to transboundary water cooperation advanced in the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean region (GWP-Med) c) 4 regionally-defined functioning communities of practice of GEF IW project stakeholders and partners, managed by regional institutions and conducting twinning/learning experience exchanges (UNDP)	850,000	48%	900,000	52%	1,750,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Select only those focal areas from which GEF financing is requested.

³ Execution of all components in the proposed project will involve all partners. The agencies listed by each output do not exclude the other agencies from involvement, but are included to indicate the agencies which will take the lead in coordinating the delivery of those outputs.

			d) GEF IW Conference 6 in Mediterranean region (see comp. 3)					
2. Accelerated Learning and Replication of Good Practices in Transboundary Surface & Groundwater Management	TA/STA	<p>1) Increased capacity of GEF groundwater and freshwater basin projects to exchange experiences and replicate successful groundwater management approaches and practices to address adaptive management.</p> <p>2) Lessons of GEF GW portfolio incorporated into and disseminated through networks, partners, and processes, including Experience notes and Bridges Newsletter.</p> <p>3) Synergies among GEF surface – groundwater, and LME projects enhance achievement of GEF strategic objectives.</p> <p>4) Strengthened policy/legislation/institutional/technical mechanisms for river basins and groundwater, integrated in GEF project portfolio and in dialogue processes for Parliamentarians testing national mainstreaming</p> <p>5) Science based understanding of groundwater resources and issues strengthened in GEF portfolio.</p>	<p>a) 2 functioning & facilitated global Communities of Practice (COP) for GEF IW groundwater and river basin project stakeholders and partners (UNESCO, UNDP)</p> <p>b) Functional dialogue, twinning, and learning exchanges within and between groundwater and river basin CoPs and mechanism of partnership with the global LME network (UNDP)</p> <p>c) Dialogue with regional focus (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and SIDS) facilitated between GEF groundwater projects and ongoing relevant efforts (UNESCO)</p> <p>d) Cooperative approach among projects tested in selected regions like the Mediterranean region, the Sahel, Pacific and Caribbean SIDS, including testing of dialogue processes with Parliamentarians (UNESCO, UNDP)</p> <p>e) Experience Notes, policy briefs, special articles and case studies on good practice solutions for groundwater management (UNESCO)</p>	780,000	48%	825,000	52%	1,605,000
3. Global and GEF IW Portfolio Learning and Dialogue to Enhance Project Delivery and Impact	TA, STA	<p>1) Global GEF IW portfolio performance and capacities strengthened</p> <p>2) Enhanced targeted knowledge-sharing between projects</p>	<p>a) 6th Biennial GEF International Waters Conference in the Mediterranean region (UNDP)</p> <p>b) Project results presented at IWC-6 collated, analyzed and disseminated in</p>	450,000	50%	450,000	50%	900,000

		<p>3) Increased interaction and experience sharing among managers of GEF IW projects</p> <p>4) Increased awareness of GEF IW experiences and achievements and partnership with non-GEF supported interventions</p>	<p>proceedings (an in journal articles, Experience Notes) (UNDP)</p> <p>c) IWC6 Host Mediterranean Region dedicated session at IWC6 (UNDP)</p> <p>d) Facilitated dissemination of best practices from GEF IW projects and partners in approved global dialogue processes to transfer experiences and know-how</p>					
4. Information Management and Communications Platform to Support GEF IW Projects Learning and Dialogue	TA, STA	<p>1) Improved web-based information and knowledge management and utilization of the IW resource center and project communication platforms</p> <p>2) Enhanced visibility and visualization of project activities and results facilitates cooperation and replication.</p> <p>3) Enhanced stakeholder access to data and information from IW projects.</p>	<p>a) IW Resource Center with user-driven and user-friendly functionality for regional and thematic Communities of Practice (CoPs) and individual project toolkit websites</p> <p>b) Training and technical assistance for individual project website development and links to UN-Water family platforms, to support targeted knowledge sharing and dialogues (UNEP)</p> <p>c) Portfolio visualization tools (utilizing e.g. Google Earth and video), applications and regular news dissemination including e-updates (UNEP)</p> <p>d) Workspaces for specific portfolio subgroups such as COPs, project managers and governments, and IWTF (UNEP)</p> <p>e) A comprehensive searchable catalogue of GEF IW project experiences and results (UNEP)</p>	900,000	49%	950,000	51%	1,850,000
5. Programmatic Tools to Enhance GEF IW Portfolio Project Performance	TA, STA	<p>1) Improved standardization and harmonization of new GEF methodological approaches in IW projects to help address new global issues</p> <p>2) Strengthened results-</p>	<p>a) A revised, and GEF IWTF endorsed, TDA/SAP on-line training course that incorporates emerging issues of gender mainstreaming, financial sustainability, and supports new approaches to adaptive management for climate</p>	350,000	42%	490,000	58%	840,000

		based and adaptive management, improved performance and cost effectiveness of IW projects 3) Enhanced project capacity for the application and replication of good practices and greater participation in experience sharing and learning processes.	change (UNDP) b) Leadership training for IW project managers, based on an IW focal area on-line manual and capacity-building to support skills required, including understanding RBM and training in utilization of the IW tracking tool (UNDP) c) GEF IW project results & achievements captured in peer-reviewed journal articles (UNDP)					
6. Demonstrating Innovative Approaches related to Climate/water and private sector participation	TA/STA	1) IW projects become aware and acquire skills to address vulnerability to climate change in transboundary basins 2) Public-private partnerships promoted and facilitate sustainability of GEF IW interventions 3) GEF IW project stakeholders fully aware of climate change issues and ready to mainstream into strategic adaptive management	a) The climate issue introduced to the IW portfolio; testing 2-3 risk-insurance mechanisms and other economic instruments piloted on the basis of vetted climate risk assessment methodology (UNDP) b) GEF IW and other experience with public-private partnerships codified and demonstrated in 2-3 new projects (UNDP) c) Methodology to address climate change impacts in shared water bodies (UNDP) d) Online Stakeholder Forum piloted with a GEF project (s) (UNDP)	250,000	45%	300,000	55%	550,000
7. Project management	Oversight and coordination across all component activities and partners			320,000	48%	350,000	52%	670,000
Total project costs				3,900,000		4,265,000		8,165,000

^a List the \$ by project components. The percentage is the share of GEF and Co-financing respectively of the total amount for the component.

^b TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & Technical Analysis.

B. INDICATIVE Co-financing FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE and by NAME (in parenthesis) if available, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Type of Co-financing	Project
Project Government Contribution	(select)	50,000
GEF Agency(ies)	(select)	3,165,000
Bilateral Aid Agency(ies)	(select)	
Multilateral Agency(ies)	(select)	750,000
Private Sector	(select)	
NGO	(select)	300,000
Others	(select)	

Total Co-financing		4,265,000
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C. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	Previous Project Preparation Amount (a)⁴	Project (b)	Total c = a + b	Agency Fee
GEF financing		3,900,000	3,900,000	390,000
Co-financing		4,265,000	4,265,000	
Total		8,165,000	8,165,000	390,000

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)¹

GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
			Project (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNDP	International Waters	Global	3,000,000	300,000	3,300,000
UNEP	International Waters	Global	900,000	90,000	990,000
Total GEF Resources			3,900,000	390,000	4,290,000

¹ No need to provide information for this table if it is a single focal area, single country and single GEF Agency project.

² Relates to the project and any previous project preparation funding that have been provided and for which no Agency fee has been requested from Trustee.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:

The GEF International Waters (IW) portfolio comprises 170 projects to date, including 16 multi-focal area projects, and consists of some US\$1.1 billion of GEF grants invested in 149 different countries globally. This investment leveraged approximately US\$4 billion in co-financing. By all accounts and many evaluations, since the inception of the GEF in 1992, the portfolio has delivered real results and replicable experiences to be scaled-up and mainstreamed globally. At the start, the portfolio was marginally interested in sharing its experience with itself. However, after previous phases of IW:LEARN demonstrated different learning methodologies, processes now exist that have engaged the portfolio in such experience sharing. Proven GEF IW:LEARN methodologies are now ready to be up-scaled portfolio-wide, utilizing the proposed project, to enhance the application of GEF IW experiences to improve portfolio quality and mainstream the capacity to address transboundary concerns and address climate change. Moreover, the need for a new GEF IW:LEARN project lies in the continued demand for:

1. Assisting projects in acquiring relevant knowledge related to transboundary waters management to improve project design
2. Enhancing the understanding and application of GEF IW experiences across the portfolio to produce better quality project results
3. Facilitating the replication and upscaling of good practices in transboundary waters management resulting in less costs and improved capacity to address transboundary concerns
4. Ensuring that insights generated through project interventions are shared and add value to the portfolio and beyond

GEF IW:LEARN began in 1997 as an experimental portfolio-wide knowledge management and capacity building initiative, which encouraged networking, launched a Distance Masters program and organized the first GEF IW Conference (IWC). A foundational project during the period 2000-2003 provided knowledge management training and on-demand technical assistance for GEF IW projects, as well as piloting of a number of learning tools. The subsequent Operational Phase of IWLEARN (2004-2008), built on pilot phase lessons, and developed a strategic approach to knowledge management, manifested by a consolidated knowledge management service line: learning exchanges, targeted training, participative international waters conferences, knowledge products on Payment for Ecosystem Services and stakeholder participation, information management, technical support to website development, regional and global dialogue processes, support for communities of practice and a help desk. Key results of the operational phase included, in brief, 9 targeted trainings (on *inter alia*, stakeholder engagement, economic valuation, environmental flows, payment for ecosystem services, IWRM planning, LME governance) serving 319 stakeholders from 57 projects, the two most recent Global International Waters Conferences (IWC's), 10 learning exchanges (on *inter alia*, TDA-SAP preparation, Project Communications, Coastal Zone and Tourism Management, Nutrient Pollution Management, Wetland Restoration, Climate Change Adaptation, Groundwater

⁴ Include project preparation funds that were previously approved but exclude PPGs that are awaiting for approval.

Management, Information Management) serving 23 projects, a content management platform with subsidiary website toolkit, and a DVD on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs). These outputs have resulted, amongst others, in the advancement of a transboundary water governance process in Southeastern Europe and other achievements, such as the signing of a joint groundwater management protocol. The operational phase resulted in catalytic impacts on transboundary waters management ranging from delivering ministerial declarations to the mainstreamed replication by other organizations of information management and targeted training activities. The project also resulted in the sensitization of potential partners and involvement of three GEF agencies. Sustainability plans were produced by those agencies and this project now operationalizes the inclusion of those agency regular capacity building and learning programs into the GEF IW portfolio along with new partners that can help address the critical and emerging global IW issues.

The successful outcomes, ranging from tripled levels of cofinance for targeted workshops leveraged to the development of training courses based on IW:LEARN trainings, from previous IW:LEARN projects compels the development of a full-scale effort among GEF agencies and new partners to address the new pressures on water systems such as climate change and per OPS 3 recommendations for IW to scale up assistance. As explicitly noted in the independent terminal evaluation of the most recent Operational Phase, “The IW:LEARN model has successfully led to a number of products and a series of services which are highly valued by all who were asked. All wish to see these continue.” This sentiment is also confirmed in numerous post-conference and post-workshop evaluations. The GEF agencies are committing increasing amounts of programming resources toward knowledge management in their work plans. This provides a strong programmatic basis to benefit from and build upon in terms of knowledge management and experience-sharing across individual projects and initiatives. However, in the absence of the GEF increment, and a fully executed IW:LEARN Sustainability Plan to facilitate knowledge management across the GEF agencies, adult learning and experience-sharing across GEF IW projects will not occur comprehensively or efficiently portfolio-wide. This situation would needlessly constrain the pace and quality of project implementation and delivery thus limiting the potential depth and scope of IW success. Numerous opportunities would be missed for projects to leverage emerging information technology for greater stakeholder learning, transparency and participation in transboundary waters management. IW projects would become disconnected from broader global initiatives to share the natural resources of freshwater and marine ecosystems (e.g., Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)). Project personnel, agencies and government partners would operate in an experience vacuum significantly limiting opportunities to improve the overall performance and impact of the GEF IW portfolio.

Vice versa, without the GEF increment, there is no mechanism for projects to highlight their successes and sharing their experiences, reducing the potential for upscaling successful approaches. There is more work to be done on improving project performance, the accessibility of IW project results, mainstreaming experience sharing and developing a set of mechanisms to meet new and global IW-critical issues, such as climate change adaptation, gender mainstreaming, and the use of public-private partnerships.

Finally, at a regional level, the GEF has increased its focus on the Mediterranean and MENARID regions, as well as on groundwater management issues. Work underway in these regions provide, in particular, useful lessons on nation-to-nation cooperation in transboundary management of water resources—resources of significant global as well as regional economic and social value which are also especially vulnerable to climate changes. In response to country requests and global imperatives, the GEF IW focal area has expanded attention on groundwater, recognising that this vital resource is often transboundary in nature, underlying multiple countries. The new IW:LEARN project includes cross-project and agency learning support to GEF project teams on methodologies for groundwater/surface water management, especially concerning aquifer protection and recharge issues in the MENARID region with mobilizing new partners.

The proposed project includes six inter-related and mutually supportive components: 1) MENARID Support via Land/Ground Water Integrated Management and Support to Regional Portfolio Learning & Dialogue, 2) Accelerated Learning and Replication of Good Practices in Transboundary Surface & Groundwater Management, 3) Global and GEF IW Portfolio Learning and Dialogue to Enhance Project Delivery and Impact, 4) Information Management and Communications Platform to Support GEF IW Projects Learning and Dialogue, 5) Programmatic Tools to Enhance GEF IW Portfolio Project Performance and 6) Demonstrating Innovative Approaches for Adapting to Climate Change.

Component 1: MENARID Support via Land/Ground Water Integrated Management and Support to Regional Portfolio Learning & Dialogue (regional, to be carried out by UNESCO-IHP, IAEA, GWP-Med, UNDP and partners). The Mediterranean Sea region, as well as the MENARID region, now benefit from significant GEF investment, especially in international waters. The region faces acute and distinct challenges that GEF projects are trying to address. Specifically, the MENARID region must manage acute water shortage and rely increasingly on stressed aquifers to meet water demand. It also offers existing and potentially new innovative approaches to transboundary water management that could benefit the entire GEF IW portfolio. UNESCO, with its International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP) lies at the forefront of transboundary aquifer management. Their core budget features a dedicated programme, ISARM, with a network of specialists, guidance tools, data management and advocacy (including the recent advancement of legal articles at the ILC). The GEF increment will support a community of practice (CoP) to convene both groundwater and land managers to foster an integrated approach to land, agriculture and groundwater management. The CoP will focus on regional land/groundwater learning, linking projects in the MENARID region with other IW groundwater projects elsewhere

in the world. It will also support the development of more capacitation materials and targeted workshops to support IFAD- and IBRD-implemented projects.

The Mediterranean, including the Southeastern Europe region, also features innovative approaches to fostering regional cooperation over transboundary waters. The Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med), helps lead the Athens-Petersberg Process, a regional dialogue initiative co-sponsored by the World Bank, GEF, Germany and the Greek government. In addition, GWP-Med helps coordinate other regional cooperation processes, including the EuroMed and COMPSUD. The GEF increment, will be matched by existing partners, in particular the German government, to support water governance processes in the region. The activity will further demonstrate an innovative multi-basin approach to water management, by deepening dialogue and experience-sharing in Southeastern Europe and around the Mediterranean, as well as sharing these experiences globally. Projects in other regions will be able to benefit from these and exchange experiences as well as non-GEF cooperation processes.

Finally, the component will focus on the replication and tailoring of the global IW:LEARN service line at the regional level. In each GEF region, the project will identify a key regional partner institution (for example major commission or UNESCO chair). A functioning and self-sustaining community of practice between GEF IW projects will be established to network partners and provide a virtual (web) space to store region-specific information. Learning exchanges, including targeted training, will be conducted, and good practices and achievements will be captured and disseminated through GEF IW Experience Notes. The work of three key UNDP Programs, that of Cap-Net (its IWRM training & regional networks), the Water Governance Facility and the Arab States Governance program will be highly leveraged and utilized. In addition, UNDP has promised support from its key cluster staff as well as the mainstreaming of its regional and thematic workshops. UNEP will also provide support via its work on IWRM planning, its initiative to support South-South cooperation and the Water Vulnerability Assessment program. As a result, the component will improve land and groundwater management in the MENARID region to help combat degradation, deepen inter-basin cooperation in the Mediterranean and finally, disseminate those lessons to enhance capacity in all GEF regions through the global IW:LEARN resource center and involvement in targeted learning activities.

Component 2: Accelerated Learning and Replication of Good Practices in Transboundary Surface & Groundwater Management (global, to be carried out by UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP and partners). CoPs for river basin management and groundwater will be established within the IW portfolio with help of partners. GEF IW freshwater and groundwater projects and partners face increased urgency to share experiences given the impact of global financial and trade pressures and climate change. UNESCO-IHP is aimed at supporting a study of good water management practices and management tools to enhance efficient use and protection of surface and ground water systems. The strong intergovernmental leadership with the IHP framework allows UNESCO to harmonize global plans with the national priorities through over 160 IHP national committees. UNESCO brings on board internationally accepted wealth of knowledge and networks for ecologically sustainable management of shared waters including relevant legal and policy articles and generic cooperative potential frameworks. UNESCO will be able to mobilize matching funds through partner countries commitments and the execution of synergistic IHP-VII regular program activities (2009-2013) which are formulated by the member countries and are in line with proposed action area. The GEF increment will build on these existing activities, with UNESCO heading the interlinking of groundwater projects in a CoP and UNDP and partners leading the river basin/surface water community of practice, supported by the standard suite of knowledge management services (learning exchanges and twinning, experience notes and supporting information management and communication platforms). UNEP contributes through its groundwater vulnerability work as well as in the areas of advocacy and science-policy linkages, particularly in the context of the African Groundwater Commission. Ultimately, the component will result in an increased capacity among GEF projects in these water systems to replicate their experiences, reduce management transaction costs, enhance integration of surface and groundwater management and finally, increase the science-based understanding of groundwater resources, including the effects of climate change. Important partners with co-financing and know-how to help build portfolio capacity on the river basin/surface water CoP are IUCN, the Danube Commission-ICPDR, Murray-Darling Basin Authority, International Joint Commission and Great Lakes Fishery Commission in North America, and the South Florida Water Management District.

Component 3: Global and GEF IW Portfolio Learning and Dialogue to Enhance Project Delivery and Impact (Global, to be carried out by UNDP, UNEP, GWP-Med, host country and other partners). The Biennial GEF International Waters Conferences (IWC's), four of them since 2000, offer a unique opportunity for representatives of the entire GEF IW portfolio, agencies, and partners to share experiences and build capacity in a South-to-South framework. The GEF agencies are committing increasing amounts of their core programmes and budgets to support these portfolio learning events, including staff participation and agenda design, as well as resources for workshops before and during the event. Moreover, the host country, for the 6th GEF IWC a country in the Mediterranean basin, will support the component with a local organizing committee. The 6th GEF IWC will maintain a specific focus on targeted training and the sharing of experience from projects in the Mediterranean host region. Building on the active learning format of the 4th GEF IWC in Cape Town, and the forthcoming 5th GEF IWC in Australia, the 6th GEF IWC will convene about 300 representatives of governments cooperating in strategic transboundary water resources management programs, GEF IW project managers and execution partners. The IWC will feature an innovation marketplace, extensive opportunities for focused learning on scientific and technical innovations, interaction with the GEF Secretariat, GEF agencies and executing agencies on policies, procedures and project management, as well as ample time for the participant-directed workshops, peer-to-peer project advising

sessions and real-time video reflections. The conference will be utilized to highlight GEF IW projects contributions to ecosystem-based management and sustainable development targets. Finally, the conference will also serve as the primary venue to showcase results from the project's other components, but also importantly a venue to run training courses based on the outputs from Component 2 & 6 (i.e. the TDA-SAP course with its new features on RBM, gender mainstreaming and CC adaptive management as well as new emphasis on financial sustainability). Without IW:LEARN, GEF IW projects would remain detached from global dialogue processes, such as the World Water Forum. As a result, GEF IW achievements would not be disseminated and global awareness in the water and fisheries sectors as well as potential partnerships would not be realized. The GEF agencies are currently often independently facilitating and supporting these events and coherence among GEF agencies and projects needs a platform for presentation and a focus on the GEF brand. This component will then correct this problem and help mobilize GEF IW projects sharing their experiences with global dialogues and policy debates under a GEF banner on freshwater, oceans, and groundwater.

Component 4: Information Management and Communications Platform to Support GEF IW Projects Learning and Dialogue

(global, to be carried out by UNEP). Information management, backed by a robust content or knowledge management platform, forms a key IW:LEARN service that backstops the experience-sharing and capacity development activities the project conducts. UNEP brings to this component and the development of the IW Resource Center a robust understanding of data and information management to support ecosystem management and policy making. The organization has made significant investments in the realm of data management, science-based networking, early warning and assessment of emerging environmental issues and trends. Moreover UNEP will leverage its programs covering timely, scientifically credible, policy-relevant environmental data and information for decision-making and action planning. UNEP will utilize the GEF increment to service the GEF project community and support knowledge management of the GEF IW portfolio by effectively mating the IW:LEARN service line to its knowledge management activities. This component will improve information and communication about management practices by the portfolio through enhancement and expansion of technology utilized by both GEF IW:LEARN and the GEF IW project portfolio (i.e. the existing Website Toolkit) as well as good practices from UNEP's portfolio on ecosystem-based management building upon its programmatic basis and experiences in ecosystem-based ground-, surface and coastal water management and the Regional Seas Programme. The current content management system will be improved with a more interactive functionality consistent with the growth of mainstream Internet-based applications. The improvements will facilitate the development of platforms, hosted at iwlearn.net, that support the communities of practice established by other components (see 1, 2 and 6) The improvements will also enable the platform to serve an important communications function. UNEP will deliver training workshops to catalyse the capacity of projects to apply cost effective technologies aimed at improving information exchange and learning and develop an online guide to bring projects on board with the new technology. This will ultimately increase dialogue among projects. Moreover, the component will make accessible and visible the results and achievements of 15 years of GEF IW projects by establishing an online archiving to systematically preserve IW project data and keep them available for future projects in a user-friendly way, and develop a portfolio visualization tool to ease the discovery of project activities in given spatial areas (using, for example, Google Earth or Microsoft Virtual Earth). A tool for visualizing the portfolio will be developed as a decision-support system by linking portfolio data to other information. Visualization will also include support for project multimedia capturing results whenever available. The component will also produce a monthly bulletin based on project updates. Finally, a long standing need to link the efforts of the GEF IW portfolio with efforts throughout the UN-Water family (other portfolios) will be addressed through the development of syndication links, i.e. the automatic sharing and searching of content across platforms (e.g. UN WaterWiki) throughout the global IW community. Additional cost-effectiveness will be realized through the access and replication of tools UNEP will develop. Finally, UNEP will utilize existing and new partnerships, for example the recently announced cooperation with Microsoft Corporation, for addressing issues of knowledge sharing.

Component 5: Programmatic Tools to Enhance GEF IW Portfolio Project Performance

(global, to be carried out by UNDP with UNESCO and UNEP). While there are many policies and procedures that are common to most GEF IW projects, there is comparatively little guidance available to projects to implement those policies and procedures. Thus a need for such guidance exists based on efficiency gains that can be realized through the codification of such guidance. For their part, the GEF agencies have produced materials to guide their projects. The GEF increment will support the editing of such materials to support the broader portfolio, as well as online training courses for project managers to effectively utilize them. This component will produce a set of tools for the entire GEF IW portfolio, with the aim of improving project performance as well as the harmonization of GEF methodological approaches across the portfolio. The TDA-SAP approach is the primary GEF methodological tool for transboundary projects, and yet there is little official guidance or consistent sharing of experience in application of this methodology. The project will expand and revise an existing draft TDA-SAP methodology and training course for official GEF IWTF endorsement and subsequent dissemination

The new methodology is needed to build portfolio capacity to address emerging issues not previously included (adaptive management for climate change, mainstreaming gender, financial sustainability of regional institutions, economic valuation) and also be diversified to address the different water ecosystem types. Second, the project will develop an online GEF International Waters focal area manual, which collects the common aspects of GEF IW project design, development and implementation into knowledge product that supplements existing guidance specific to GEF Agencies. This will enable new project managers to get quickly up to speed on GEF management and reporting requirements, including proper use of the results-based management framework and GEF IW tracking tool. Development of such a manual was recommended in the GEF Program Study on International Waters (2004). Finally, one of the important outputs from this component will be support for the publication of peer-reviewed articles for submission to international

journals. As a result, this component will improve project performance, increase leadership skills, strengthen partnerships and increase awareness of GEF interventions at both the global and regional levels.

Component 6: Demonstrating Innovative Approaches Related to Climate/Water and Private Sector Participation (global, to be carried out by UNDP and partners). GEF IW:LEARN has historically been at the forefront of designing and delivering new tools and approaches for the portfolio. As a whole, the portfolio faces new challenges and needs to have its capacity built to mainstream climate change as an issue and integrate adaptation strategies into its projects. Moreover, insufficient numbers of projects are effectively utilizing public-private partnerships as a means both to finance and sustain GEF project interventions. The GEF agencies are active in both of these areas, conceiving and implementing new partnerships and programs to address these needs. In particular, UNDP is developing a risk insurance facility, which will conduct pilots of an index-insurance scheme to mitigate the effects of climate change, and UNEP is spearheading the Finance Initiative. The GEF increment will support multiple demonstrations of this and the dissemination of experience to other projects. Similarly, the increment will also support replication of successful public-private partnerships in other projects, as well as the codification of lessons from those experiences. UNDP's specialized programs, such as Cap-Net, will be highly leveraged to disseminate the results of pilots and codification exercises. Also, building on existing GEF Agency work, under this component a specific study on integrating Climate Change adaptation into IW projects will be commissioned. Finally, the project will pilot an online stakeholder forum in a given IW project. The component will result in the IW:LEARN project feeding innovations back into the GEF IW Projects.

The project will deliver **global environmental benefits** by fostering conditions for improved GEF IW project delivery and impact for transboundary water systems per the GEF Operational Strategy, as well as facilitating inter- and intra-regional adaptive learning processes necessary to accelerate the achievement of water resource-related JPOI and MDG targets. This is a critical change in IW:LEARN in focusing more on global MDGs to help the portfolio ensure its contribution whenever local demonstrations are conducted and to ensure that capacity exists to include gender mainstreaming. Building directly on the foundations of the GEF IW portfolio of river & lake basin, groundwater systems, and large marine ecosystem (LME) projects, as well as the last three phases of the GEF IW:LEARN (projects from 1998-2009 inclusive), the project will raise the profile of transboundary water governance at the international level as a united GEF contribution to make a difference globally on the dialogue for this scale of action involving one-half the people on the planet and 65% of land area and all ocean area. It will establish mechanisms for learning in the four key GEF regions. It will aim at catalyzing action and enhancing the effectiveness of the GEF International Waters portfolio through the provision of knowledge and the application of innovative techniques-

B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL/REGIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:

As with all GEF projects, country-drivenness is the sine qua non for the proposed project, and all IW projects assisted by IW:LEARN have the country GEF focal point endorsement. GEF IW:LEARN aims at supporting and improving the management of GEF international waters projects and enhancing the projects' capacity to address national priorities and plans. In terms of indicators from the operational phase, the IW:LEARN website had users from over 120 countries and its targeted training activities served people from over 100 countries. It is envisioned that such service levels can be sustained and increased with the proposed project and will be tracked with new indicators related to results-based management. The IWC's also have a specific focus on the inclusion of government representatives, featuring on average, about 70 countries per conference. While all components directly support countries by supporting projects, the first component of the project specifically targets aquifer recharge and groundwater management, a critical issue for the countries of the MENARID region. The component also advances water governance processes in the Mediterranean, processes that are aimed at facilitating transboundary cooperation across focal areas among countries in that region. There will be no progress in the MENARID region without this focus on linking groundwater capacity to the land-based efforts programmed by GEF.

C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH GEF STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:

The project meets GEF IW Strategic Objective 1 to foster international, multi-state cooperation on priority transboundary water concerns through more comprehensive, ecosystem-based approaches to management, and Objective 2 to catalyze transboundary action addressing water concerns, by assisting countries to utilize the full range of technical assistance, economic, financial, regulatory and institutional reforms that are needed.

The project contributes, through its various components, to all four strategic programs as delineated in the GEF 4 focal area strategy for international waters. Given a sub-focus on groundwater and a sub-activity in the MENARID region, it is specifically aligned with SP3 "Balancing overuse and conflicting uses of water resources in surface and groundwater basins that are transboundary in nature". In addition, climate change adaptation is addressed by the project as a cross-cutting issue in two components, the enhancement of the TDA-SAP course and also the development of risk-based insurance schemes.

As noted in the GEF Revised Focal Area Strategies (paragraph 31), "Knowledge management and systematic learning is equally important to ensure that insights generated through project interventions add value internally and externally." Portfolio-wide, regional and targeted learning activities will strengthen--and measure--gains in institutional capacity of regional and national level partners,

and the establishment of learning outcomes indicators is expected to enable project partners on the ground to continue building implementation capacity in water governance beyond completion of the project. Under this strategic program, paragraph 42 states that: “[...] Additionally, targeted learning will be undertaken for the IW portfolio to enhance experience sharing and learning, KM, and replication of good practices that contribute to sustaining livelihoods as well as food and water security.”

More generally, through targeted experience-sharing and learning among the new and existing GEF IW projects in the portfolio, the capacity of projects to achieve objectives and replicate good practices before project completion will be enhanced. Building on the foundations of the GEF IW:LEARN program, its web-based resource center (www.iwlearn.net), and in consultation with the GEF IW Task Force, the project carries forward South-to-South experience sharing among IW projects and their partners that contributes to better management practice in the GEF IW portfolio.

D. JUSTIFY THE TYPE OF FINANCING SUPPORT PROVIDED WITH THE GEF RESOURCES:

IW:LEARN is the flagship of the GEF international waters focal area and setting the cross-project and cross-agency experience sharing and learning agenda. With the focal area lacking a overarching governing convention, IW:LEARN can be seen as filling the gap of the function of experience sharing and learning under conventions and their subsidiary bodies. At the moment, GEF agencies are conducting increasing amounts of experience-sharing activities that this project will leverage as it mainstreams agency learning and capacity into the GEF IW portfolio and brings new partners for capacity building in the portfolio. The GEF grant for the proposed project will fund a set of activities that leverage cost-savings and improve project performance for all projects in the focal area. By its nature, the project needs a grant to generate the positive externalities that regular project processes would not otherwise provide. One traditional role of grants is to support this type of public good.

E. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

GEF-supported initiatives

The project builds on experiences with the previous GEF IW:LEARN phases and will specifically build on the sustainability plan and final evaluation of the operational phase jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP. The project will also coordinate with the recently cleared Coral Triangle Initiative - IW:LEARN project, in particular to exchange experiences on the organization of IWC5 and to integrate portfolio recommendations for IWC6. Globally and in each GEF region, the project will coordinate with the overall GEF IW portfolio, providing services and knowledge management functions to it.

Regionally, the project will coordinate with the projects under the MENARID program, and in particular with the UNEP-supported project on the North West Sahara Aquifer project, the IBRD-supported Land and Water Optimization Project and the IFAD-supported knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation project. The project will also focus on the other active, all UNDP-implemented GEF international groundwater projects (Dinaric Karst, Nubian Aquifer and Nile Groundwater), all in the Mediterranean region. The various projects under the GEF-UNEP-IBRD Mediterranean Strategic Partnership will also receive special attention given the large GEF investment in this basin. The GEF has also previously supported the Athens-Petersberg Process in concert with the World Bank, German and Greek governments, which addresses cooperation in a region that drains into the Mediterranean.

Finally, special attention will be devoted to close coordination with the five other GEF IW “learning” projects, namely: Regional Dialogue and Twinning to Improve Transboundary Water Resources Governance in Africa, Promoting Replication of Good Practices for Nutrient Reduction and Joint Collaboration in Central and Eastern Europe, Good Practices and Portfolio Learning in Transboundary Freshwater and Marine Legal and Institutional Frameworks, Enhancing the Use of Science in International Waters Projects to Improve Project Results and Development of Methodologies for GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment. All these projects will be linked to the project and will use [iwlearn.net](http://www.iwlearn.net) as a platform for disseminating projects results and achievements.

Non-GEF initiatives

Strong linkages will be established between IW:LEARN and the UNDP pioneered WaterWiki (<http://WaterWiki.net>) which is presently being expanded to cover activities of an increasing number of UN-Water members. UNDP will ensure data and information flow to IW:LEARN from its core water projects e.g. Central Asia IWRM project, Human-Rights Based Approaches to Access to Water Supply and Sanitation, etc. The project will also coordinate with the UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI (WGF) which is a UNDP funded programme to support the implementation of UNDP’s Water Governance Programme. Main activity areas include policy and technical advice and support to water governance reform in developing countries through the UNDP system. Improving the water governance knowledge base through development, compilation and dissemination of water governance information, knowledge, methodologies and tools as a service to promote and advocate improved water resources management and water related services. Finally, the project will realize synergies with UNDP’s other flagship capacity-building programme, Cap-Net, which focuses on development of IWRM and achievement of MDGs. Cap-Net has an experienced framework of capacity builders and the opportunity to develop knowledge into capacity building materials and scale up action on the ground. The project will coordinate extensively with Cap-Net, but in particular to translate the project’s outputs into practical lessons suitable for wider adoption.

UNEP has a strong programmatic basis in data management, building partnerships and creating knowledge in support of assessment processes and ecosystem-based management. UNEP will ensure the linkage between this and the IW Resource Center. With regard to groundwater, a number of UNEP programmes relevant to this project are under implementation: the Water Vulnerability Assessment; support to countries on the development of Integrated Water Resources Management strategies; mobilization and exchange of good practices, and in particular support to the African Groundwater Commission established under the AMCOW together with UNESCO.

Coordination of the project will also be secured with key Mediterranean processes, inter alia, with: Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative, Horizon 2020 to De-pollute the Mediterranean, Water Governance Programme in the Arab States, -Rabat Declaration Process on National IWRM Planning in North Africa, BGR activities on groundwater management, IUCN-WESCANA activities on groundwater management, Activities of the Arab Water Security Studies Centre of the League of Arab States on sharing of experiences for water resources management, Activities of the Working Group on Water of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, Petersberg Africa Programme, Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development, Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Sustainable Development and the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability. Furthermore, the project will be linked and contribute to the follow up activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water (2008) in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean.

F. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING:

While the IW:LEARN Sustainability Plan included pledges by both GEF Agencies (UNDP, UNEP) and other partners to mainstream IW:LEARN's knowledge management services, the need for the GEF increment persists. The terminal evaluation itself wrote that, "Even if the GEF Agencies continue with steps to institutionalize IW-Learning, the GEF Secretariat with its pivotal position is best placed to ensure sustainability of the IW:LEARN products and services." In other words, a need still exists for centralized coordination, and the GEF's support for a project that coordinates the partially mainstreamed services exists, until full mainstreaming within Agencies and project budgets occurs.

Moreover, while key IW:LEARN services will be mainstreamed, there are still significant components of the project that transcend the GEF Agencies ability to serve the entire GEF IW portfolio, the GEF IW Conference for example. The new project will, as a result of the GEF increment, also develop new demand-driven tools (index-based risk insurance, recommendations on public-private partnerships, the TDA-SAP course, IW Focal Area GEF Manual) that serve the entire GEF IW portfolio. In the absence of GEF investment, these new portfolio-wide tools will not be produced and existing services will be only partially continued with part of the GEF IW portfolio.

This project represents a modest incremental cost which aims to leverage increased project effectiveness and results for GEF IW investments across the GEF portfolio. Through regional, thematic and portfolio learning and experience-sharing the project integrates GEF-supported transboundary experiences into global efforts to improve freshwater and marine resources management in the context of achieving JPOI and MDG Goals and adapting to climate variability and change. As GEF Council documentation has emphasized, facilitating transfer of lessons and experiences between projects is an important investment: potential yields are large in terms of improvements in replication efficiency and scaling up successful approaches. This project focuses on this as it adds an increment to agency activities included in their IWLEARN sustainability plans and fosters new partnerships for building IW project capacity with new partners to address the new global issues being faced by transboundary water systems.

G. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE INCLUDING RISK MITIGATION MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN:

Risk description	Rating⁵	Mitigation measure
A key risk to this project is an operational one as it brings together several agencies and partners together. This may increase the complexity of implementation and therefore impact on the results.	M	During the project preparation phase particular emphasis will be given to the definition of roles and responsibilities, as well as accountability for results and joint management
Not all GEF IW projects are willing to engage in various types of portfolio learning activities or to expose any weaknesses in project implementation to external scrutiny.	L	Project stakeholders are officially encouraged to utilize GEF IW:LEARN services at all levels of implementation and execution
Participants are sufficiently aware of GEF IW:LEARN and know how to both engage	M	The project will effectively market its

⁵ For the purpose of the PIF, risk rating is restricted to High (high), Moderate (M), Low (L)

its services and provide their own experience to peers (via CoP participation, IWEN production IWC engagement and information syndication)		basic service line to the portfolio
A flood index for an insurance based mechanism is not feasible. This is a highly innovative index in an emerging area of climate risk financing. As compared to other tested index-based insurance products, the complexity stems from (i) transboundary nature of the risk considered; (ii) potential human intervention and subsequent willingness of the insurance industry to adopt the index.	M	If the demonstration does not succeed, a methodology would still have been developed and capacity built on climate risk assessment in transboundary basins.
With a global spread of constituents, the website and similar mechanisms cannot be relied upon to “pull” beneficiaries. There is a need to “push” (as the previous IW:LEARN team did with their direct interaction) as well as rely on “pull” for electronic products and services.	L	The project will make an investment in direct interaction with beneficiaries. Constituents need to be engaged to the extent possible to create a sense of ownership.
The proposed regional context is a positive step but it risks fragmentation (between regions and themes) and might weaken its global dimension and hence the cost benefit is much reduced.	L	The project's management will be specifically tasked with ensuring coherence (in their terms of reference)

H. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:

The cost-effectiveness of the project components draws upon partnerships to effect efficiencies in implementation. Preliminary partnership discussions are underway with Mediterranean countries regarding the possible co-hosting of IWC6 in 2011. Drawing upon local logistical and technical expertise could reduce operational costs relative to prior conferences. Above all however, the IW:LEARN project will be cost-effective because its services and newly-developed tools can produce economies of scale, in that they are developed and subsequently replicated for the entire GEF IW portfolio. The alternative is production of these services at the Agency or even lower levels. GEF has found that working across projects and across agencies can provide the most cost-effective approach to capacity building, south-to-south experience sharing, and rapid incorporation into existing projects and new projects of innovative and good practices in TWM.

Many of the tools designed into this project will result in cost-savings among the entire portfolio of GEF IW projects, in the form of reduced need for training, in terms of TDA-SAP preparation and GEF IW project management. The update to information technology can be easily replicated by the entire GEF IW portfolio meaning, for example, that all projects can use a common platform to disseminate their data, results and news without the need to retain information technology staff, pay for website hosting and related training. The focus on land and water issues in the MENARID will generate lessons for the global portfolio.

The project will build effectively on existing GEF Agency workplans. In particular, the project will build on UNDP's awareness raising on TBW issues thru the UN-Water Task Force on Transboundary Waters, investments in the further development of WaterWiki, the UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI (WGF), global processes like the World Water Development Report, training programs on Water Integrity (with Cap-Net and WaterNet), mapping of existing water governance methodologies to provide basis for further developments of how to work with governance in water in more practical ways. WGF work on water adaptation, and the new UNDP GoAL-WASH programme will also greatly contribute the success of the IW:LEARN project

Through its Africa Adaptation program supported by the government of Japan, UNDP is working with the University of Columbia – International Research Institute on Climate and Society – to identify innovative financial instruments and mechanisms in relation to adaptation to climate change. As part of that work, IRI will be working closely with river basin organizations to develop a conceptual framework for climate risk assessment in transboundary basins and for the development of a flood insurance index. Should this flood insurance index prove viable, it will be piloted in several river basins, through a facilitated dialogue between insurance/re-insurance industry and river basin organizations and through the development of transactable products. UNDP's Africa Adaptation program will provide co-financing for this output at the level of US\$0.5 M.

UNEP will leverage various types of support for the project's overall knowledge management platform and agenda, as well as the previously mentioned core programmes (in section A).

UNESCO will be able to mobilise matching funds through partner countries commitments and the execution of synergistic IHP-VII regular program activities (2009-2013) which are formulated by the member countries and are in line with proposed action area. Further details on UNESCO IHP-VII program plan, preferences of areas of action indicated by the member countries and delivery mechanisms can be found at the following url: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001594/159400e.pdf>

Regarding GWP-Med, co-financing is linked with the activities that they would lead or participate to as well as with the foreseen magnitude of activities. The Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), a wide multi-stakeholder partnership for promoting IWRM in the Mediterranean, has demonstrated expertise on key subjects addressed by this project, convening power, proven managerial capacity, an active network of regional and national partners, and is leading or participating in a number of international, regional and national programmes supported by various donors. GWP-Med is willing to lead activities in the Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe that have to do with regional dialogue processes, sharing of experiences and, to a certain extend, innovative approaches.

I. JUSTIFY THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF GEF AGENCY:

UNDP has successfully lead the implementation of the IW:LEARN project since its inception in 1998. The terminal evaluation of the latest IW:LEARN phase states that “the implementation of the UNDP/WB component of the project can be said to have been both effective and efficient” UNDP is also the implementing agency for recently approved project: Portfolio Learning in International Waters with a Focus on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands and Regional Asia/Pacific and Coral Triangle Learning Processes” which will support continuation of a number of the successfully piloted KM activities under the IW:LEARN pilot and implementation phases. In addition, UNDP has established itself as one of the leading international organizations supporting the improved governance of transboundary water bodies.

UNEPs comparative advantage lies in knowledge management, science to policy linkages and capacity building. UNEP has also a strong record in fostering technical and institutional cooperation at multi-country level. UNEP has long-implemented GEF IW:LEARN’s information management agenda, including specifically, the iwlearn.net website and subsidiary website toolkit (now utilized by approximately thirty GEF IW projects). In addition, UNEP advances knowledge for environmental decision-making through scientific and technical analyses, including ecosystem-based international waters assessments, and is the implementing agency for two related learning projects on enhancing the use of science in GEF IW projects and developing a methodology for transboundary waters assessments. UNEP will leverage their afore-mentioned areas of expertise and build upon its programmatic strengths in support of the proposed project.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

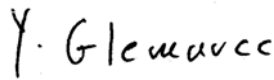

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

(Please attach the [country endorsement letter\(s\)](#) or [regional endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).

Not applicable due to the Global nature of the project.

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
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