

AFRICA INTEGRATED LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE.  
Presented by Franklin Cardy, World Bank, and Maryam Niamir-Fuller, UNDP GEF.  
In Thematic Session at 10.30a.m. Monday October 16.

The Africa Integrated Land and Water Management Initiative is being established by the GEF Implementing Agencies, (UNDP, UNEP, World Bank and GEF) to support a more comprehensive approach to the inter-related challenges of managing land and water resources. There is increasing urgency to consider the impacts of land management measures on the water resource, where the effects of poor land use such as pollution and sediment are absorbed by the water to the detriment of the fish population, on which the people may depend, and to the detriment of the water's use as potable supplies for the population. Houses washed away in floods; wells polluted or dried up; livestock congregating; topsoil washed away; silting up of reservoirs; channels blocked by aquatic weeds - all are examples that affect the poor directly and require a coordinated approach to land and water management.

The initiative is still developing but the main thrusts are established. The primary one is to provide a participative way in which the issues can be selected and addressed. This presentation is part of the effort to solicit input to an approach which the stakeholders will lead. The presentation will emphasize the need for a socio-political approach as much as a traditional bio-physical one. The emphasis will be on partnerships and collaboration, essential for an integrated approach, and on African ownership.

The Activities envisaged under the Initiative include rapid start up at participatively selected demonstration sites; institutional support and capacity building; support for networking and dissemination of best practices; fostering of donor collaboration and the development of partnerships at all levels; as well as monitoring and evaluation of progress with rapid feed-back to learn from experience.

The results expected include the establishment of a long term programmatic approach, providing consistency and sustainability. This is hoped to play a catalytic role, encouraging others to join or follow suit. The program seeks to achieve improved on-the-ground management; improved governance; deliberate donor and agency collaboration; and encourage the recognition of the connection between the problems of individuals struggling for survival and the wider management issues of a river basin.

Financial and technical resources initially come from the Implementing Agencies' own resources and partly from GEF, implemented by IA's. While design is underway at each demonstration site, capacity building needs would be addressed. This approach would ensure that appropriate staff are in place when the design is completed. The IA's would also help mobilize financial resources for implementation after the design is completed.

The initiative is expected to develop and implement an innovative approach to integrated land and water management to further strengthen country ownership and implementation capacity; to improve client responsiveness and emphasize results on the ground in a timely manner. It will also optimize support from GEF by facilitating better coordination among donors for mobilization of financial and technical resources.