



GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL WATERS ASSESSMENT

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Symposium on future water concerns

GIWA and the University of Kalmar is organizing a symposium on transboundary waters in Kalmar in August 2003. The theme is how to apply the results from the scientific assessment to manage water resources with the focus on developing country situations. An important element will be discussions on global water-related assessments, their outcomes and experiences gained.

A scientific board has been formed and the first announcement is published.

http://www.siw.org/pdf/2003_World_Water_Week_1st_Announcement.pdf



Freshwater program for schools

GIWA is giving attention to the International Year of Freshwater 2003 with a program for schools in the region of Kalmar, host city for the GIWA core team. The program will collaborate with XL, a science center at the University of Kalmar. Children in elementary schools will be invited to study the challenges to improve supply and quality of freshwater. They will do classroom activities and visit the science center to do laboratory experiments.

The freshwater year will also be recognised at the Model UN meeting at high school level in Kalmar in January.

Important results from the world's largest reservoir

The task team from sub-region 40b Amazon has completed the scaling and scoping phase and is now conducting the remaining stages of the GIWA sub-regional assessment.

The Amazon basin is an international water system shared by seven South American countries: Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Venezuela. The basin is the largest freshwater system on earth, comprising one fifth of the total volume of the world's riverine water. In the GIWA assessment, modification of aquatic habitats is considered the top priority in this region mainly due to its negative socio-economic implications such as deteriorating health and loss of livelihood. The degradation of the aquatic habitats is primarily a consequence of dam

constructions, cattle grazing, agriculture, species introduction and mining. Hydroelectric dams in the middle and lower Amazon have led to a decline in fish catches impacting the fisheries sector negatively. Habitat destruction has not only affected the economy but also the health situation with epidemic outbreaks of water-related diseases.

GIWA activities are in full swing also in the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean.

All the Latin America sub-regions have done the initial scaling and scoping phase of GIWA, and the last reports are expected to



be delivered soon. The sub-regional reports are bringing significant results, and the task teams are all very enthusiastic to go through the next stages of GIWA.

Sub-regional task teams who had started earlier are now developing the causal chain analysis and policy options phase. The results may be used by other sub-regions as a model.

A mega-regional report is also being produced. This report will be based on all the sub-regional reports.



Ten sub-regions pilots in "Early Delivery Program"

Phase 1 of the GIWA assessment, the Scaling and Scoping exercise, is now close to being completed. From the scaling and scoping an important overview of the environmental problems in international waters emerges. This is the first time a global inventory is done on the health of the transboundary water bodies, seas, rivers, lakes, underground aquifers and their ecosystems in terms of the environmental and socio-economic impacts.

The next phase, the causal chain and policy option analysis, which is designed to investigate the societal root causes of the degradation of the water bodies and propose possible policy options for remedial actions, is already initiated. A comprehensive and important work to develop methodologies and guidelines has been completed. Training and testing is ongoing. In this area GIWA again is breaking new grounds and no blueprint for this exercise is available. The lessons learned so far indicate that careful and comprehensive supervision and assistance to the Sub-regional task teams are required in order to secure credible results.

These facts were recognised by the GIWA steering group who met in early October, and the steering group recommended an extended pilot phase to be undertaken in order to gain experience and utilise the available human resources in the most efficient way. This pilot phase was termed "The Early Delivery Program" indicating that the sub-regions participating would be the first to deliver the completed and peer reviewed sub-regional assessment reports. Obviously this puts a great burden on those sub-regional teams selected for the early delivery program. On the other hand the other who follows later will be able to profit from the experience gained and the lessons learned, and they will have the opportunity to use the early delivery program reports as models for their own work.

The participants in the early delivery program are: SR17 the Baltic Sea, SR23 the Caspian Sea, SR24 the Aral Sea, SR33 Japan/East Sea, SR34 Bohai Sea, SR39 Brazil Current, SR40a Brazilian Northeast, SR40b Amazon, SR42 the Gulf of Guinea, SR 47 East African Rift Valley Lakes.

Upcoming events...

6-9 January 2003 in Washington, USA:
Meeting with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

3-7 February 2003 in Nairobi, Kenya :
The 22nd session of the UNEP Governing Council

16-23 March 2003, in Kyoto, Japan:
3rd World Water Forum

11-14 August 2003:
Stockholm Water Symposium

18-20 August 2003, in Kalmar, Sweden:
Joint GIWA-University of Kalmar Conference on Transboundary Waters.

Dear GIWA friends,

Christmas is close by and a new year is soon here. Here in Sweden the winter days are short. In December we celebrate the Day of Santa Lucia, a candle light tradition to brighten the darkest day of the year.

It has been a hectic but also important and prosperous year in the life of GIWA. As you will read in this newsletter the global picture of the environmental problems in International Waters now emerges from the GIWA assessment. We are approaching the Causal Chain and Policy Optional Analysis, and for that purpose we have initiated the Early Delivery Program.

The 3rd World Water Forum in Japan, March 16-23, is one of the important events. GIWA will have a session on "Transboundary Water Issues" as part of the thematic session "Water and Peace". I will encourage you all to participate in this very exciting session.



Season's greetings to all from the GIWA Core Team in Kalmar.

For all of you who have followed GIWA in 2002 and mostly to those of you have given input to the assessment I thank you for the time you have given to GIWA. 2003 will be an even more exciting year and I encourage you to continue follow our developments, by the

newsletters or by our web-site www.giwa.net.

Your continued support is appreciated.
Seasonal greetings.

Best regards,
Dag Daler

GIWA Co-ordination Office
Postal Address: Global International Waters Assessment, GIWA
SE-391 82 Kalmar, Sweden

Web Site: www.giwa.net **E-mail:** info@giwa.net
Telephone Secretariat: +46 480 44 73 50
Fax +46 480 44 73 55