

<p>the Caribbean in order to develop capacity to improve water resources management. In doing so, this Medium Size Project would assist the International Waters-Learn (IW:LEARN) project, being implemented by UNDP and executed in part by UNEP (IW Best Practices Database), to implement its mandate of helping countries as part of a global effort to improve communications and outreach. Specifically, the project would act as an IW:LEARN demonstration/pilot project using Latin America and the Caribbean as a privileged site to illustrate the functioning of a network system. This network would facilitate the exchange of project experiences and results, provide a mechanism for the dissemination of lessons learned and best management practices to improve water resources management, as well as encourage the assimilation of lessons learned into national water resources management policies and river basin master plans. In doing so this Medium Size Project will provide IW:LEARN with a model for parallel activities in other region thereby leveraging the experience gained in LAC to benefit GEF-IW activities world-wide building a larger system of global knowledge sharing.</p>	<p>The knowledge base and lessons learned in water resources management, as well as the mechanisms for their dissemination developed through this project are being used by (1) the IW:LEARN project in other GEF regions and by (2) the IW:LEARN Best Practices Database component implemented by UNEP.</p> <p>National water management authorities and river basin authorities assimilate lessons learned and knowledge in their planning and decision-making processes.</p>
<p>10. Project outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better informed water resources management communities in the Americas; enhanced sharing of critical water resources management knowledge, experiences, and best practices; and strengthened collaboration amongst riparian countries leading to improved water resources management. 2. Processes for sharing experiences and lessons learned from GEF-International Waters (GEF-IW) projects in Latin America and the Caribbean identified, tested, and refined for future use (e.g. the global knowledge sharing system of IW:LEARN and its IW Best Practices Database component implemented by UNEP). This new system will act as an IW:LEARN pilot site using LAC experience and knowledge 	<p>Indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National water management policies, river basin strategic action programs, and watershed management plans reflect the integrated approach to water resources management. 2. Published documents and materials disseminate best practices resulting from GEF-IW projects in water resources management. Project twinning.

<p>benefiting as well from the variety of currently developed tools and mechanisms under IW:LEARN.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Increased capacity of water management organisations and river basin authorities for sharing information and experiences via the Internet as well as through other media. 4. Lessons learned and best practices from GEF-IW projects disseminated using the IWRN as a platform. 5. Lessons learned and best practices on critical water resources management knowledge gathered through this project forming critical inputs for further discussion at the major forthcoming water meetings (e.g. Third World Water Forum). 6. Strengthened IWRN. 7. Strengthened civil society participation in water resources management projects. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. IWRN (and/or related sites) make accessible GEF-IW project experiences, results, best practices, and water resources management knowledge base. Similar information would also be available from IW:LEARN and its Best Practices Database for parallel global and regional activities. 4. Redesigned IWRN web page with a systematic process for updating the information is available, and its maintenance and financial sustainability are guaranteed once GEF funding is over. 5. IWRN participating and providing inputs for technical agendas of international meetings on water related issues. 6. Virtual Fora for broad discussion on water management issues are functioning. 7. Partnerships between local organisations and governmental agencies are established and are applying the principals set forth in the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Decision-making for Sustainable Development to land and water management issues
<p>11. Planned activities to achieve outcomes :</p> <p>1. Foster dialogue amongst GEF-IW and other related water resource management projects in LAC establishing a mechanism to share recent accomplishments, experiences in the planning and management of GEF-IW projects, lessons learned, and best practices identified.</p> <p>1.1. As a follow-up to the GEF-IW-LAC</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>1. A framework for documenting and disseminating experiences, lessons learned and information created, as well as best water resources management practices.</p> <p>1.1. Proceedings/reports of the regional</p>

² Potentially leading to the formation of thematic centers of excellence (e.g. within the Bermejo river basin, a Center of Excellence for all land degradation issues) according to the special area of emphasis addressed by specific GEF-IW projects (see also annex I).

<p>project managers e-forum of July-August 2001, and its complementary 2-day face to face meeting at the margins of DIALOGUE IV (September 2001), convene three regional meetings to exchange knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and best practices amongst GEF-IW and other water resources management project managers.</p> <p>1.2. Implement Virtual Fora (both thematic² and/or per sub-regions) to facilitate the information exchange on water resources management issues, outlining lessons learned and best practices, using IWRN as a platform with the IWRN Secretariat acting as moderator for the electronic discussion. This will provide inputs to major forthcoming global international waters meetings (e.g. Third World Water Forum).</p> <p>1.3. As a result of both the face to face meetings and the Virtual Fora, prepare and disseminate a comprehensive document/brochure and CD in the four OAS languages outlining best water resources practices and lessons learned in the Americas, to be presented at the Third World Water Forum and related meetings.</p> <p>1.4. Support participation of key GEF-IW project managers in the series of global & international water meetings amongst which the Third World Water Forum and its ancillary meetings.</p> <p>1.5. Encourage and facilitate project twinning activities (e.g. between the Sao Francisco and the San Juan projects) including <i>inter alia</i> field trips and personnel exchange.</p> <p>2. Foster the inclusion of lessons learned and best practices into water resources management practices.</p> <p>2.1. Develop specific guidelines for inclusion of best practices and lessons learned into the</p>	<p>meetings posted on the IWRN Web site, and printed to be distributed to participants.</p> <p>1.2. Virtual Fora in place and operational with resulting documents and findings from discussions available on the IWRN Web page and populating the IWRN and IW:LEARN Best Practices Databases.</p> <p>1.3. Water resources management report/brochure outlining best practices and lessons learned for the Americas prepared and posted on the IWRN web site, and presented at global international water meetings e.g. the Third World Water Forum and its ancillary meetings.</p> <p>1.4. GEF-IW project managers attend major global and international water meetings.</p> <p>1.5. Twinned projects fostering exchange of lessons learned, best practices and knowledge.</p> <p>2. National water plans incorporate lessons and best practices learned through GEF-IW projects.</p> <p>2.1. Document/report containing guidelines of best practices and lessons learned from GEF-</p>
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<p>development of new water resources management activities. This will be done in close consultation with IW:LEARN and specifically with its Best Practices Database component implemented by UNEP.</p> <p>2.2. Conduct three regional training workshops with a view to promoting the inclusion of lessons learned and best practices in the development of new projects and water resources policies.</p> <p>3. Strengthening the IWRN as the principal hemispheric communication tool for integrated water resources management.</p> <p>3.1. Prepare a framework to strengthen the IWRN as a hemispheric communication tool for integrated land and water resources management.</p> <p>3.2. Redesign the IWRN web site—making it an interactive metadata site ensuring information exchange rather than just information dissemination—using protocols for searching, accessing, and acquiring information and data to enhance its dialogue function.</p> <p>3.3. Establish a sub-regional node in Brazil and possibly as well in one or several potentially identified thematic centers of excellence (see 1.2 above)—as pilot sites within this activity—to test the website and related communications tools.</p> <p>3.4. Convene one workshop to assess the needs for training and equipment for water resource professionals and NGOs within Brazil and thematic centres of excellence to promote access to, and use of, the IWRN information system.</p> <p>3.5. Assist countries to secure financing for the establishment of IWRN regional nodes in the Americas.</p>	<p>IW projects published.</p> <p>2.2. Reports/proceedings of three sub-regional meetings posted on the IWRN, distributed to participants, and presented at the series of major international water meetings e.g. the Third World Water Forum.</p> <p>3. Web site of IWRN registering an increased number of visitors.</p> <p>3.1. New work plan for the IWRN prepared and approved by the IWRN national focal points and advisory council.</p> <p>3.2. New and more user-friendly IWRN Web sites format including a functioning Virtual Forum.</p> <p>3.3. Sub-regional node in Brazil and possibly with thematic centers of excellence functioning and being used for information sharing and dissemination.</p> <p>3.4. A report containing the results of at least one workshop with participation by water resource professionals and NGOs to evaluate the accessibility to IWRN Network, needs, and/or obstacles to use.</p> <p>3.5. Secured financing from other donors for the establishment of IWRN regional nodes in Central America, the Caribbean countries and the Southern Cone.</p>
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<p>3.6. Ensure adequate linkages between IWRN and other regional and sub-regional networks (e.g. SIDSNet, CIC,...) involved in water resources management</p> <p>4. Involve civil society according to principles set forth in the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making (ISP).</p> <p>4.1. Identify five sub-regional and/or national (one in each of the sub-regions of the Americas) potential pilot projects to test the principals of ISP within the IWRN framework.</p> <p>4.2. Organise a special meeting of GEF-IW and other water resources management project managers and ISP focal points to facilitate the inclusion of the principles of the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in water resource management projects, and help to reduce misunderstandings and conflicts through proper consultation with the civil society.</p> <p>5. Monitoring and Evaluation.</p> <p>5.1. In addition to the monitoring and evaluation activities exercised by the GEF Implementing Agency, and in addition to the day-to-day monitoring of activities by the GS/OAS as the Executing Agency, GS/OAS will co-ordinate a mid-term and final evaluation of the project activities.</p>	<p>3.6. Linkages between IWRN and other regional and sub-regional networks involved in water resources management established and operational.</p> <p>4. Involvement of civil society secured.</p> <p>4.1. Established agreement with NGOs to identify and present proposals for the five potential pilot projects.</p> <p>4.2. Report of a special meeting of GEF-IW and other water resources management project managers and ISP focal points on the inclusion of ISP principles in water resources management activities.</p> <p>5. Project activities monitored and evaluated.</p> <p>5.1. Diligent monitoring and evaluation exercised by both UNEP and the OAS. Mid-term and final evaluation reports prepared, published, and available on the IWRN Web site.</p>										
<p>12. Estimated budget (in US \$ or local currency): [Project duration: 22 months]</p> <table> <tr> <td>GEF:</td><td>US \$ 972,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Co-financing:</td><td>US \$ 470,000 (US \$ 170,000 in cash and US \$ 280,000 in-kind)</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>US \$ 100,000 (OAS, in-kind)</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>US \$ 95,000 (UNEP, in-kind)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td><td>US \$ 1,637,000</td></tr> </table> <p>13. Information on project proposer: The Secretariat of Water Resources (SRH) is part of the Brazilian Ministry of Environment (MMA), and is responsible for defining national policy for water resources management. In this role, the Secretariat co-ordinates countrywide projects with local and foreign financial support. Since 1996.</p>		GEF:	US \$ 972,000	Co-financing:	US \$ 470,000 (US \$ 170,000 in cash and US \$ 280,000 in-kind)		US \$ 100,000 (OAS, in-kind)		US \$ 95,000 (UNEP, in-kind)	Total:	US \$ 1,637,000
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	US \$ 95,000 (UNEP, in-kind)										
Total:	US \$ 1,637,000										

Brazil has been executing a number of GEF-IW projects. Amongst these projects are those in the Upper Paraguay River Basin—aimed at the formulation of a Watershed Management Program for the basin, the Sao Francisco River Basin—aimed at developing a Strategic Action Program for the basin, and the Guaraní Aquifer region—aimed at the formulation of an action framework for this transboundary aquifer. The SRH was the host of the Fourth Inter-American Dialogue for Water Resources Management (Dialogue IV) where the authorities and institutions involved in water management, together with key stakeholders and international organisations (including the GEF Secretariat and Implementing Agencies), discussed water resources issues and initiatives in the Americas. As a member of the IWRN, and since the Secretary of Water Resources is currently its co-chairman, Brazil is committed to strengthening the IWRN. Likewise, given Brazil's participation in GEF-IW projects spanning a range of GEF-IW Operational Programs (OPs), the SRH is committed to building the synergy between these complementary functions. To this end, this MSP is one mechanism to catalyse this synergy.

14. Information on proposed executing agency:

International Executing Agency: General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States (OAS). The OAS is the premier forum for multilateral dialogue and decision-making in the Americas. It aims at strengthening democracy and at promoting peace, understanding, and collaboration amongst its 34 member states. As a result of global and hemispheric summits, the OAS has demonstrated strong leadership in promoting participatory sustainable development, with the close collaboration of its member states and civil society representatives. The Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment (USDE) of the OAS, which will be responsible for the overall management of the project, is widely acknowledged as a successful environmental management agency at the hemispheric level. Its connection on the political level with various specialised bodies of the OAS, both at headquarters and in terms of technical co-operation in environmental management within the member states, facilitates its role as a bridge between the public and private sectors, civil society, and water resources professionals. Within the OAS, the USDE serves as a mechanism for the exchange of information and experiences in development and the environment, a role that has been demonstrated with the successful implementation and operation of the IWRN during its formative years. In addition, the USDE executes several GEF-IW projects on behalf of The World Bank and UNEP, as well as numerous projects for USAID and other agencies. Currently, there is a US \$ 42 million portfolio of projects under execution, a US \$ 13 million portfolio in the final stage of negotiation, and an US \$ 8.6 million portfolio of projects in the early stages of development and preparation. Given its historic involvement with both the IWRN and the GEF-IW focal area within the Latin America and Caribbean region, and added experience in water resources projects on behalf of other agencies, the USDE of the OAS is well placed to execute the day-to-day activities of the project.

Local Executing Agency: Secretariat of Water Resources of the Ministry of Environment/Brazil in close consultation with the other endorsing countries. See below implementation plan section.

15. Date of initial submission of project concept: December 2000

16. Project Identification number: tbd

17. Implementing Agency contact person: Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Co-ordinator, UNEP GEF Coordination Office, Nairobi, Kenya

18. Project linkage to Implementing Agency program(s):

The proposed actions are consistent with the UNEP Environmentally Sound Management of

Inland Waters (EMINWA) integrated watershed management planning process and related, regional seas programme. Within Latin American and the Caribbean, UNEP is the GEF Implementing Agency for four International Waters projects, including those in the Sao Francisco and Upper Paraguay River basins in Brazil, the Bermejo River Basin in Bolivia and Argentina, and the San Juan River Basin in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. In addition, UNEP has a long-term participation in the IWRN, providing some of the initial funding for its implementation and operation during its formative years. This MSP proposal continues the partnership with the OAS in catalysing an holistic approach to watershed management in Latin America and the Caribbean by developing the obvious synergy between the IWRN, the GEF-IW projects, and the EMINWA approach. It is consistent with the strategy of the Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) to develop Environmental Information Networks, as a key element in UNEP Programme of Work, to facilitate the collection, exchange, and dissemination of environmental data and information between countries and regions. It also is consistent with DEWA's mandate to catalyse the collaborative assessment of key environmental issues related to sustainable development, so as to improve international policy formulation and planning, raise public awareness, and further strengthen human and institutional capacities for environmental management. In addition to the IWRN, examples of UNEP-established networks include: ENRIN—a network designed to promote development of national and sub-regional capacities in environmental data and information management to support State-of-the-Environment (SoE) and issue-based assessments by partner institutions; the GEO global network of Collaborating Centres—a co-ordinated, global network of regional, multidisciplinary institutes conducting integrated assessments and forecasts and providing scientific guidance for regional and international policy setting and action planning; the Climate Impacts and Response Strategies Network (CIRSNet)—a network of government focal points exchanging information and experiences on climate change impacts and responses; and, INFOTERRA—the global environmental information exchange network that operates through a system of 176 government-designated national focal points. At the national level, INFOTERRA focal points provide a wide range of environmental information products and services including environmental bibliographies; directories of sources of information; query-response services; environmental awareness leaflets; and access to Internet services. UNEP is also an active participant in the development of the water resources best management practices data base element of the IW:LEARN project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

The proposed project, “Development and Implementation of Mechanisms to Disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean”, aims to promote South-to-South learning, develop and implement mechanisms to disseminate the lessons being learned in GEF International Waters-related (GEF-IW) projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, and improve capacity to integrated water resources management. This Medium Size Project (MSP) will assist the International Waters-Learn (IW:LEARN) project of UNDP in the implementation of its mandate to improve communications and outreach between countries world-wide. This project would serve as a demonstration project using Latin America and the Caribbean as a privileged site to illustrate how systematic exchange of project experiences, lessons learned, and best practices can improve integrated water resources management. Specifically, the project will strengthen and improve mechanisms for the dissemination of information and lessons learned from GEF-IW projects and other experiences in integrated water resources management within the Latin America and Caribbean region. With at least eight active GEF International Waters (GEF-IW) projects being executed in the Latin American and Caribbean region (Annex I), this project is a timely and useful complement to existing water management programs in the region. The dissemination of information and lessons learned from GEF-IW and other relevant water resources management projects in the region, through an efficient information network, will contribute to enhancing capacity of water authority and river-basin organisation staffs in improving and implementing water resources management practices in the region.

To date, the dissemination of lessons learned during and after the execution of GEF-IW projects in the region is restricted largely to the geographic areas where the projects were executed. Thus, there is significant scope for more widely disseminating the experiences and lessons learned in a manner that could benefit future initiatives throughout the region. Both successes and failures constitute important opportunities to improve the integrated water resources management.

In disseminating appropriate information, existing regional communication mechanisms and networks—such as the Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN), the Latin American Network of River Basin Organisations (LANBO), SIDSNet, and IW:LEARN—could contribute significantly to this process, once a process is defined to facilitate information transfer. Indeed, by integrating the GEF-IW-LAC projects’ experiences, lessons learned, and best practices into the IWRN, a broader community of decision-makers and policy-makers throughout the LAC region can be reached. Government representations in the IWRN, through countries National Focal Points appointed through the OAS Permanent Missions, strengthen the likelihood that these experiences, lessons learned, and best practices positively influence water policies in the LAC region. Further, not only the LAC region can benefit from the tools and mechanisms already developed by IW-LEARN, but IW-LEARN can also disseminate LAC experience throughout other GEF regions. As witnessed during DIALOGUE IV, in a collaborative effort between IWRN, GEF-IW LAC projects, IW-LEARN, OAS and UNEP, more than thirty project managers from nine GEF-IW-LAC projects exchanged information, experiences, and lessons learned prior to (in e-forum) and during the Fourth Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management, held in Brazil from September 2 to 6, 2001. This process was designed to construct relationships, exchange information, identify appropriate mechanisms to manage and share this information, and determine a means of continuing this process of information sharing and dissemination. The audience was unanimous in saying that time was ripe for a comprehensive mechanism/process

for ensuring that the experience and knowledge gained so far in water resources management be shared (see Annexes V and VI). In addition, prior to and during the Dialogue IV, IWRN National Focal Points gathered to discuss the creation and strengthening of fora and the establishment of virtual fora for selected sub-regions in LAC. With funding from the Multilateral Special Fund of the OAS Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI), the establishment of five sub-regional fora is under way. These fora would allow for the integration of all OAS participating member countries in the GEF-IW-LAC forum.

The presence of representatives from the different countries within the region at the IV Dialogue provided an opportunity to strengthen the role of the IWRN and its ancillary networks in the region prior to the Fourth Water Information Summit (held in Panama, October 2001). Additionally, as a network of networks, IWRN and its ancillary networks can act as a tool in facilitating the incorporation of experiences to date in GEF-IW and in other relevant water resources management projects into the existing policies and management practices for improving the overall capacity of water resources managers on a regional and sub-regional basis. The outcome of Dialogue IV, and the experiences gained in the operation of a refined IWRN, can provide necessary input for other major international water resources management meetings (e.g. the “Third World Water Forum”, to be held in Kyoto during 2003). All of these meetings constitute important fora for exchange and dissemination of experiences and results from, *inter alia*, GEF-IW projects.

Brazil, as the host country for Dialogue IV, is well positioned to co-ordinate a regional discussion of information dissemination and exchange with respect to GEF-IW projects. Brazil currently is involved in the execution of four GEF-IW projects—in the Sao Francisco, Upper Paraguay, Putumayo river basins and Guaraní Aquifer—and, hence, has first hand knowledge of the nature and conduct of GEF-IW projects in the region. As these projects, as well as the other GEF-IW projects in the region, have achieved a level of maturity where information sharing would be useful and beneficial to each of the projects, Dialogue IV provided a unique opportunity for the conduct of discussions designed to facilitate such information sharing. Such discussions not only benefited existing GEF-IW projects in the region but also contributed to the establishment of a sustainable mechanism for consultation and co-operation in the fields of watershed and coastal management and information technology.

This proposal, based upon GEF-IW OP 10, specifically addresses the short-term objectives of “dissemination of lessons learned from ongoing projects, and sharing of learning experiences and best management practices, within groups of countries co-operating on transboundary water projects.” It aims to catalyse a process that can be replicated through the IW:LEARN project and related initiatives of UNEP (IW Best Practices Database) and the GEF, using Latin America and the Caribbean as a privileged site within which to develop the necessary approaches, mechanisms, and infrastructure.

CURRENT SITUATION

The Summit for Sustainable Development of the Americas, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, during December 1996 (the Bolivia Summit), was a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, or the Rio Conference—the primary output of which was the framework for action known as *Agenda 21*). The Bolivia Summit was aimed at defining strategies for implementing *Agenda 21* in the Americas. During this Summit, the heads of state of Latin American and Caribbean countries approved the Plan of Action for

Sustainable Development in the Americas. Chapter IV of this document sets forth initiatives on water resources and coastal areas. The OAS was charged with the responsibility of identifying progress in the implementation of these initiatives through a hemispheric consultation process. Progress toward implementation, as well as constraints, was documented in the report entitled, “Status and Proposed Actions to Continue the Implementation of the Initiatives on Water Resources and Coastal Areas of the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas.” This report recommended the creation of a partnership amongst countries, international multilateral organisations, and NGOs to increase efforts in the management of water resources, including initiation of specific actions to facilitate a consultative process for the implementation of the initiatives identified at the Bolivia Summit.

The initiatives recommended were complemented with the “Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in decision Making for Sustainable Development” (ISP), affirmed by the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS), and aimed at improving living conditions through economic growth, with social equity. The ISP is predicated upon sustainable consumption patterns and an ecological equilibrium that includes a commitment to the integrated management of the region’s water resources. The approval of the ISP is an important mechanism to support the implementation of integrated water resources management in Latin American and the Caribbean.

Previously, during 1993, water experts, water authorities, and representatives of academia, the private sector, and NGOs, in the Americas, established a periodic consultative mechanism known as the Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management. The initial meeting of the Dialogue was held in Miami, with subsequent meetings being held in Buenos Aires and Panama. These Dialogues have been important fora for the discussion of water resources management practices and the establishment of basic linkages to develop and strengthen a regional understanding of water management. These Dialogues also have enabled a periodic evaluation of the achievements and the lessons learned.

The Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN) was a direct and practical outcome of Dialogue I. Established in 1994 with funding from UNEP and the OAS, and with the OAS as technical secretariat, the IWRN is comprised of 34 member countries, each having appointed national focal points. The Mission of the IWRN is to promote education and the open exchange of information and technical expertise, and to enhance communication, co-operation, collaboration, and financial commitment to the implementation of integrated water and land resources management within the context of environmental and economic sustainability in the Americas.

Despite the relative abundance of water in the Americas, it is unevenly distributed and subject to localised pollution problems. Some areas face severe drought, while others face restrictions due to water quality problems, even in those areas where water is available in quantity. Integrated land and water resources management at the river-basin level provides an important tool for addressing such issues at the different scales at which they occur. Nevertheless, difficulties arise in dealing with differing, and potentially conflicting, stakeholder interests, even in countries where federal or national legislation sets general policies. In such situations, at the watershed-scale, stakeholders not only include water users in the various economic sectors, but also in potentially competing riparian administrative units (e.g., states, provinces, and/or departments). Information and availability of information are critical elements in reconciling such divergent viewpoints.

Differing interests and viewpoints arise, in part, as a result of the rapid economic growth being experienced within the region, and, particularly, in the headwater areas of the two main transboundary river basins in South America, the Plata River and Amazon River Basins. These areas form the new agricultural frontier, often being exploited with heavy machinery supported by large quantities of agrochemicals that affect water quality. Growing populations add to increased urbanisation and water consumption within these basins, which already support “Megacities” such as São Paulo (BR), Assunción (PA), Santa Fe (AR), and Buenos Aires (AR). In Central America, the San Juan River Basin faces similar conflicts arising from water uses, while, on the islands of the Caribbean, management of freshwater faces competing demands from both agriculture and tourism—the two principal sources of foreign exchange.

Superimposed on these competing economic pressures, there are increased social and societal pressures on the water resources in the region resulting from increased public interest in participation in water resources management. In several countries, communities are organising themselves to participate in the decision-making process by creating river basin associations, holding local meetings, publishing newsletters, and developing activities with children and other community level stakeholders. As with economic development issues, information and availability of information are critical elements in promoting effective community involvement in integrated water resources management.

Several initiatives to promote integrated water resources management are under way, several of which are funded in part with funds provided through the GEF-IW OPs. Nevertheless, the region continues to face serious challenges with regard to dispersed administrative responsibilities that involve multiple institutions, many lacking adequate resources to properly carry out their functions; accelerated deterioration of surface and groundwater quality and quantity; inadequate and incompatible legal systems, and land and water management practices and policies; and poor participation by stakeholders and interest groups in decision-making. Despite the commonality of these problems between river basins, approaches and solutions are largely being developed on a case-by-case basis with little interchange of experiences and outcomes between basins or stakeholders. Again, information and availability of information are critical elements in catalysing sustainable management of the region’s water resources. However, in addition, capacity is often lost, or weakened following the completion of these local initiatives owing to the lack of sustained technical support and access to the information needed that might not have been absorbed or provided during the project period.

The present project proposal will take advantage of (1) the potential synergy (see Annex VI) between the ISP, the GEF-IW projects and other integrated water resources initiatives in the region, as well as with IW:LEARN and IWRN and (2) of the opportunity provided by Dialogue IV, to strengthen the IWRN as a tool for capacity building and dissemination of information in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through the refined IWRN, links with other networks (e.g. SIDSNet, LANBO,...) will provide a basis for the broad exchange of information within the region and at the global scale, consistent with the mission of the GEF and its Implementing Agencies. Such a goal also is consistent with that of the World Water Vision, and the river basin approach to integrated land and water resources management elaborated at the Second World Water Forum held in the Hague during March 2000. It also addresses in part the concerns voiced by GEF-IW project participants at the First Biennial Water Conference held during October 2000 in Budapest.

EXPECTED PROJECT OUTCOMES

With the implementation of the present project, it is expected that Latin American and Caribbean countries, and especially river-basin organisations, national water authorities and water stakeholders, will have an increased understanding and capacity to address properly the technical, social, legal, and ecological issues facing water resources management in the region. Such capacity and understanding is predicated upon access to, and exchange of, information, on an on-going network basis. The Virtual Forum of IWRN, to be developed as a result of the discussions and decisions taken at Dialogue IV, will strengthen the regional information system to help countries address their common difficulties in implementing effective, integrated land and water management practices. A redesigned and strengthened IWRN will not only continue as the principal hemispheric communication tool for integrated water resources management in the region, but will also broaden access to the IWRN platform and better inform water resources management communities both in the Americas and world-wide.

It is also expected that lessons learned and best management practices developed from the GEF-IW projects within the region, once available electronically to all stakeholders, will result in an increased capacity of, and community-driven demand for, water management organisations and river basin authorities to adopt new practices. Participation in international meetings on water issues can facilitate the incorporation of integrated water resources management approaches into national policies as well as increase the potential for information and experience exchanges. River basin master plans can be discussed through the Virtual Fora, leading to the publication of a set of guidelines resulting from these discussions. In addition, the exchange of experiences within Latin America and the Caribbean, related to the use of electronic networks like the IWRN, at international meetings on integrated water management, will result in a strengthened collaboration globally amongst riparian countries on integrated water resources management issues. As noted above, the outcomes of this project are specifically intended to be presented and discussed during the major forthcoming global and international water events (e.g. Third World Water Forum meeting).

It is also anticipated that lessons learned and best management practices developed from the GEF-IW projects within the region as well as any other outcome of this project will benefit IW:LEARN in general and specifically its best practices database component implemented by UNEP. Indeed this project would act as an IW:LEARN demonstration/pilot project using Latin America and the Caribbean as a privileged site to illustrate the functioning of a knowledge exchange network system. In doing so this Medium Size Project would provide IW:LEARN with a model for parallel activities in other region thereby leveraging the experience gained in LAC to benefit GEF-IW activities world-wide building a larger system of global knowledge sharing.

At the country and local levels, it is envisioned that the IWRN National Focal Points will continue to be especially involved in the project, since they are the primary liaison between the project and the water community in each country. Their involvement will be ensured through Virtual Fora and, when necessary, periodic special meetings.

ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL INPUTS:

The five Components proposed in this project (see Annex II) were identified through a consultative process conducted within the region. These Components address identified needs related to information on water management, and take advantage of the opportunities for discussion provided by Dialogue IV. This project is indeed a logical follow-up to GEF-IW-LAC e-forum (July and August 2001), prior to a complementary 2-day face to face meeting at the

margins of DIALOGUE IV (September 2001) where over 30 GEF-IW project managers and technical co-ordinators in the LAC region have recently expressed their interest in sharing best practices and lessons learned in water resources management.

Component 1 - Foster dialogue amongst GEF-IW and other related water resource management projects in LAC establishing a mechanism to share recent accomplishments, experiences from the planning and management of IW projects, lessons learned, and best practices.

The objective of this Component is not only to facilitate communication amongst and between GEF-IW project managers in order to address common concerns, but also to develop a mechanism whereby they can meet with government officials, local authorities, and stakeholders to discuss the strategies for incorporating lessons learned in water resources management practices and policies. Five activities comprise this Component:

- Special sub-regional meetings, in follow-up to Dialogue IV meeting (Brazil - September 2001), will initiate the process, which then will be continued through Virtual Fora, integrated into a refined Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN).
- The IWRN will be redesigned as a more user-friendly network that will contribute to enhanced information exchange amongst water resources authorities and river basin authorities in the region. These actions will make the IWRN a fast and reliable communications tool with a much broader range. Smaller communities, river basin authorities serving smaller river basins, and identified stakeholders will easily access water resources information.
- Virtual Fora will be established in the first instance to initiate this process, building upon the results of Dialogue IV. The Fora will be utilised, as appropriate, to obtain information on specific discussion points, leading to the formation of thematic centres of excellence and will provide a mechanism to refine and enhance the role of the IWRN. GEF-IW projects managers, IWRN focal points, river basin organisations, national water authorities, together with a variety of selected water stakeholders in LAC will form the audience of such e-fora.
- As a result of both the face to face meetings and the Virtual Fora, a comprehensive document/brochure and CD in the four OAS languages outlining water resources practices and lessons learned in the Americas, will be prepared and disseminated *inter alia* at the Third World Water Forum and related meetings.
- In order to further foster lessons learned, best practices and knowledge sharing, project encountering similar environments will be twinned (e.g. The Sao Francisco and the San Juan projects, Bermejo and Maritime Front projects).

The results of the discussions will provide potential inputs for discussion at major forthcoming water events (e.g. Third World Water Forum).

The results of the discussion will also provide potential inputs for IW:LEARN and its Best Practices Database component implemented by UNEP for parallel activities in other GEF regions thereby leveraging the experience gained in LAC to benefit GEF-IW activities world-wide building a larger system of global knowledge sharing.

GEF: US \$ 438,200; co-funding: US \$ 359,000; total: US \$ 797,200.

Component 2. - Foster the inclusion of lessons learned and best practices into water resources management practices.

The objective of this Component is to develop a framework within which the experience acquired during the execution of GEF-IW projects can be shared and disseminated so as to minimise problems and issues of concern through improved communication and information-sharing. The outcome of this Component will include shared experiences and inclusion of lessons learned into routine water management practices in the region. Two activities comprise this Component:

- Specific guidelines for inclusion of best practices and lessons learned into policies and regulations will be developed and utilised in the formulation of new water resources management activities. These guidelines will be developed in close consultation with IW:LEARN and specifically with the Best Practices Database component implemented by UNEP.
- Three regional training workshops will be conducted with a view to promoting the inclusion of lessons learned and best practices in the formulation of new activities.

GEF: US \$ 122,700; co-funding: US \$ 39,000; total: US \$ 161,700.

Component 3- Strengthening of the IWRN as the principal hemispheric communication tool for integrated water resources management.

The objective of this Component is to develop specific processes for sharing and disseminating experiences and lessons learned from GEF-IW projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. The output of this Component will include Internet as well as other media, that will be identified, tested and refined for future use, with appropriate linkages to other networks and information systems and a sustainable financial and knowledge base. A strengthened and actively used IWRN, capable of meeting the needs of the stakeholder community, will be the principal result of this Component. This Component is comprised of six activities:

- A framework will be developed within which a strategic program will be identified to strengthen the IWRN as a hemispheric communication tool for integrated land and water resources management.
- The IWRN web site will be redesigned as an interactive metadata site, ensuring information exchange rather than just information dissemination, using protocols for searching, accessing and acquiring information and data, enhancing its dialogue function.
- Sub-regional nodes will be established and equipped within Brazil and possibly as well within the potentially selected Thematic Centers of Excellence, as pilot sites, to test the refined IWRN website and related communications tools.
- A workshop to assess the needs for training and equipping of water resources professionals and NGOs will be convened within Brazil, a result of which will be the development and implementation of a program of training where needed to promote access to, and use of, the IWRN by water resources professionals and NGOs.
- Assistance will be provided to the countries of Latin American and the Caribbean in securing financing for the establishment of up to five IWRN sub-regional nodes within the Americas. Each of the nodes will be selected according to their specific area of expertise and will be developed into Centres of Excellence based upon their specific area of emphasis as shown in Annex I.

- Linkages between IWRN and other regional and sub-regional networks (e.g. SIDSNet, LANBO,...) involved in water resources management will be identified and established. Specific links to IW:LEARN will be established as this project is acting as a pilot site for IW:LEARN in general and specifically for its Best Practices Database component implemented by UNEP.

GEF: US \$ 178,500; co-funding: US \$ 189,000; total: US \$ 367,500.

Component 4 - Involve civil society according to principles set forth in the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making (ISP).

The objective of this Component is to facilitate access to the IWRN by civil society, as a specific stakeholder within the region, pursuant to the principals of the ISP. The outputs will include a meeting of IWRN focal points leading to the formulation of a strategy for the inclusion of the ISP principals within the information dissemination process. The results of this Component will be enhanced participation by civil society in water resources management and decision-making. Two activities comprise this Component:

- A special meeting of GEF-IW and other water resources management project managers and ISP focal points will be convened to facilitate the inclusion of the principles of the ISP in water resources management projects, and help to reduce misunderstandings and conflicts through proper consultation with the civil society.
- Five sub-regional and/or national (one in each of the sub-regions of the Americas) nodes through which civil society can access the IWRN will be identified and established in order to test the principals of ISP within the IWRN framework.

GEF: US \$ 143,800; co-funding US \$ 39,000; total: US \$ 182,800.

Component 5 - Monitoring and Evaluation.

The objective of this Component is to ensure the implementation of the project and the achievement of its intended outcomes through a process of identifying and monitoring project progress, not only in terms of financial disbursements but also in terms of information distributed and knowledge transferred between GEF-IW projects and other projects in the region. The output will include regular monitoring reports. The results of this Component will be increased dissemination and utilisation of information throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. This Component is comprised of one activity:

- In addition to the monitoring and evaluation activities exercised by the GEF Implementing Agency, and in addition to the day-to-day monitoring of activities by the OAS as the Executing Agency, UNEP in consultation with the OAS will co-ordinate a mid-term and final evaluation of the project.

GEF: US \$ 16,800; co-funding: US \$ 39,000; total: US \$ 55,800.

SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS AND RISK ASSESSMENT.

Most countries in the region have several water resources management activities looking as well into integrated river basin and coastal zone management as in progress. Enhancing the communication mechanisms for a more efficient exchange of information and experience will complement this effort as recently recognised as a crucial need by the GEF-IW-LAC project

managers as well as by a large number of participating countries in the September 2001 DIALOGUE IV meeting (see annex V). Thus, many of the concepts and approaches proposed herein have been proven to have minimal risk and a high potential for sustainability.

While many countries have participated, and continue to participate, in the IWRN, as a mechanism for information sharing and dissemination, there is a continuing risk that no single country will adopt the regional network. Thus, there is a moderate risk that the IWRN will be under-staffed and under-budgeted, leading to an ongoing need for external finance and support.

Notwithstanding, the involvement of local communities in GEF-IW activities has greatly advanced the participation of stakeholders in integrated river-basin and coastal zone management in the region. While there is a risk of conflict due to competing demands, and to overlapping, inter-governmental jurisdictions and mandates, the successful resolution of such conflicts in specific projects suggests minimal risk. Indeed, this project will strengthen the process of stakeholder involvement, and facilitate negotiations to establish new mechanisms for stakeholder involvement and consolidate existing ones. In the longer term, this process will depend on the establishment of national or regional water resources management systems. Many governments are reviewing existing national water laws and regulations—or planning to adopt new ones—and better legal support, predicated upon sound information and sharing of experiences as proposed herein, will strengthen the implementation of integrated transboundary river-basin management systems. Nevertheless, political will, at all levels, is required to ensure that this project prospers and that the outcomes of the project are fully integrated into planning methodologies for integrated land and water resources management.

It is expected that the governments will maintain and increase efforts to improve water management, by strengthening the institutional framework, improving information exchange, and integrating their related legal frameworks, thereby minimising risk and promoting sustainability. The Brazilian IWRN node will be an important tool to strengthen the “National Water Management Information System”, which is being implemented. Once fully operational, this system will provide the long-term sustainability of the IWRN regional node. The demand for information on water resources management practices is growing steadily, and is likely to continue to grow, due to the growing number of river basin organisations that are being created and stakeholder initiatives being developed.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

The proposed, enhanced communication system will allow a fast flow of information and easy access for civil society at any level of political organisation. This will enhance the ability of stakeholders to interact effectively with water authorities and river-basin organisation managers (locally, nationally and internationally). In the first instance, NGOs, such as The Citizenship Movement for Water in Brazil, will be identified as potential partners in a broader process to evaluate and share the lessons learned with other similar groups to be identified in the Americas through GEF-IW projects. For the purpose of the pilot demonstration project proposed herein, a small coordination secretariat and local focal point will be established in up to five selected medium- and small-sized cities, as provided in Component 4. The focal points, to be selected in a manner consistent with the ISP, will normally be local organisations committed to and concerned about water management procedures. Building upon these citizen-based linkages in the information system, meetings between representatives of community organisations and water resource agencies are planned to encourage citizens to express their views and propose means to make their participation more effective. At Dialogue IV, a meeting was organised by a Brazilian

NGO involved in water resources management, including several Latin American water management authorities and NGOs, to discuss strategies for applying ISP principles and incorporating the lessons learned during the GEF-IW projects locally. In addition, the Dialogue IV meeting provided a focus for the distribution of media releases by water-oriented NGOs, dissemination of water resources information to the public and press through established media outlets, and a means of highlighting the role of stakeholders in water resources management. The participants at Dialogue IV formed the core group of interested organisations and authorities that will be committed to this initiative.

INCREMENTAL COST ASSESSMENT

The goal of the present proposal is to promote integrated water resources management in the transboundary river basins of the Americas. The project will accomplish this goal by identifying and communicating lessons learned during GEF-IW project development and execution, improving involvement of the public in the decision-making process through enhanced access to information, and improving communication amongst all stakeholders through networking.

As noted above, many governments are currently undertaking such actions at the national level to promote improved, integrated water resources management. Nevertheless, because of the local focus of the majority of these efforts, opportunities for creating synergy between projects, and sharing approaches and outcomes across river basin boundaries, are not being fully utilised. Examples of the local investment considered as baseline for this project include funds that Brazil allocated to the preparation of Dialogue IV. Additionally, the National Water Resources Information System, implemented in Brazil during August 2000, provides an example of country-level initiatives complementary to this regional project. In Central America, country support to the Central American Committee on Water Resources (CRRH) indicates a similar strong and clear political will of countries to implement integrated water resources management based upon sound technical information within the region.

This project is designed to provide funds to meet the incremental cost of disseminating information and experiences throughout the region, thereby enhancing not only local knowledge and participation, but also meeting the GEF-IW objectives of contributing to the global knowledge base on the management of transboundary waters.

The incremental benefits to be achieved through the conduct of this project can be grouped into four broad areas, each approximately corresponding to the four major operational Components of this project. In each, the additional benefits to be achieved with GEF funding include a wider dissemination of information and experiences, leading to strengthened regional capacities for water resources management as a direct consequence of information-sharing facilitated through the meetings and information networks proposed herein. The fifth Component of this project, monitoring and evaluation, is wholly incremental in nature.

Component 1 - Foster dialogue amongst GEF-IW and other related water resource management projects in LAC establishing a mechanism to share recent accomplishments, experiences from the planning and management of IW projects, lessons learned, and best practices: Improved knowledge about transboundary river-basin management practices and experiences is expected to result from the dissemination of the documents prepared in conjunction with this proposal. These documents will provide a basis for the initial dissemination of the results of the technical meetings, and are to be produced in a format compatible with the IWRN document transmission system. These documents will be accessible to a wide audience of

water resources professionals and interested parties and stakeholders, thereby initiating the regional sharing of information designed into this project.

Component 2. - Foster the inclusion of lessons learned and best practices into water resources management practices: Discussion and evaluation of the lessons learned in the several GEF-IW projects in the region, and incorporation of their results into project management procedures and practices, will strengthen the capacity of country and local level staff and stakeholders to effectively implement and maintain sound water resources planning programs. This will make management practices more efficient, while enhancing interaction among the staffs of the different organisations, strengthening both local and regional co-operation.

Component 3- Strengthening of the IWRN as the principal hemispheric communication tool for integrated water resources management: A strengthened and actively used IWRN, capable of meeting the needs of the stakeholder community will promote the exchange of experiences and lessons learned amongst users and ultimately improve water management policies and practices throughout the region and world-wide.

Component 4 - Involve civil society according to principles set forth in the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making (ISP): Experience acquired in transboundary river-basin management will not only improve the management of river basins but will also enhance transparency and the ability of stakeholders to participate in the decision-making process. In addition, the strengthening of communications among water authorities and river-basin organisations will facilitate information transfer among the projects under execution, and potentially to other transboundary basins where complex issues of conflict among different groups of stakeholders exist. The present proposal will permit the participation of IWRN focal points and other speakers in the preparation of basic documents, and the preparation of the meeting proceedings. While activities related to the IWRN are ongoing due to the efforts of the OAS as the technical secretariat, and the Centre for Environmental Studies of the University of Miami as the WebMaster, the present proposal improves communication and allows for the redesign the WebPage to introduce new links and information scheme partners that will contribute to achieving the IWRN's mission, consistent with that of the GEF-IW focal area.

Incremental Cost Matrix (US \$)

Component	Category	Amount	Domestic Benefits	Global Benefits
Foster dialogue amongst GEF-IW and other related water resource management projects in LAC establishing a mechanism to share recent accomplishments, experiences from the planning and management of IW projects, lessons learned, and best practices	Baseline	359,000	Information on water resources available within each project area	
	Alternative	797,200	Same as above, with additional information supporting the sustainable use of the resource within the wider region	Increased protection and sustainable use of water systems based upon shared experiences and dissemination of lessons learned and best practices; increased efficiencies based upon reduced learning curves for project teams. Improved GEF-IW activities world-wide. Improved system of global knowledge sharing.
	Increment	438,200		
Foster the inclusion of lessons learned and best practices into water resources management practices	Baseline	39,000	Limited dissemination and implementation of sustainable development concepts and measures	
	Alternative	161,700	Same as above, with added capacity for improved, sustainable water management and decision-making	Positive impacts of co-ordinated water management, and development of methodologies able to be applied to other international basins; increased dissemination of project outputs
	Increment	122,700		
Strengthening of the IWRN as the principal hemispheric communication tool for integrated water resources management	Baseline	189,000	Public awareness of water conservation and public health issues	
	Alternative	367,500	Same as above, with public support for appropriate development, utilisation and conservation of water	Positive impacts of co-ordinated water management, and development of programs able to be applied to other international basins; greater public and stakeholder access to IWRN-based information
	Increment	178,500		

Component	Category	Amount	Domestic Benefits	Global Benefits
Involve civil society according to principles set forth in the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making (ISP)	Baseline	39,000	Public awareness of water conservation and public participation in water management	
	Alternative	182,800	Same as above, with public support for appropriate development, utilisation and conservation of water resources	Positive impacts of co-ordinated water management, and development of programs able to be applied to other international basins; increase public participation in resource management
	Increment	143,800		
Project Monitoring and Evaluation	Baseline	39,000	Operation of country-based water information systems	
	Alternative	55,800	Same as above, with added capacity to regulate water uses in a co-ordinated and sustainable manner	Increased protection of water quality and quantity with resultant potential benefit to regional biological diversity and maintenance of water resources
	Increment	16,800		
Project Coordination and Management	Baseline	-- ^a	-- ^a	
	Alternative*	72,000	Same as above	Development of methodologies for coordination of management and monitoring of multinational water systems; enhanced project management and increased efficiencies
	Increment	72,000		
TOTAL	Baseline (Including Co-financing*)	665,000		
	Alternative*	1,637,000		
	Increment	972,000		
PDF Preparation		--		
Total Increment		972,000		

^aIn the absence of a GEF intervention, no cost is accrued for project monitoring and evaluation; costs incurred for monitoring and evaluation of the project, therefore, are wholly incremental.

*Co-financing is provided by the Government of Brazil in the amount of US \$ 470,000 (in cash and in kind), the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States in the amount of US \$ 100,000 (in kind), and the United Nations Environment Programme in the amount of US \$ 95,000 (in kind).

BUDGET

PROJECT BUDGET IN US\$

Component	GEF	BRAZIL	OAS	UNEP	TOTAL
PDF:	N/A				
Personnel:					
• Technical Co-ordinator (18 p/m)	72,000				
• Local Technical Expertise **	229,600				301,600
Contracts with local experienced entities **.	222,800	220,000	100,000*		542,800
Travel/Training/Meetings:	392,600	100,000		95,000*	587,600
Equipment (hardware and software):	15,000	150,000*			165,000
Administrative costs	40,000				40,000
Project total	972,000	470,000	100,000	95,000	1,637,000

* = in kind

** = Maximum amount to be split amongst as many local experts and experienced entities as possible as decided during project implementation.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The project duration is estimated to be 22 months. The proposed project will be directed by a Project Steering Committee composed of seven members—one member each representing the Brazilian Agency for International Co-operation (ABC), Secretariat of Water Resources (SRH/MMA), National Water Agency (ANA), UNEP, the General Secretariat of the OAS, the IWRN Secretariat, and the IW:LEARN project. For cost effectiveness, in the Steering Group, Brazil will act on behalf of the other LAC countries. A virtual technical committee will be established with each participating country nominating a technical focal point such as its national IWRN focal point. These technical focal points representing at the inception of the project all endorsing countries and later on possibly any selected constituencies as decided, would be included via network linkages in a virtual steering committee. In addition, the project would maintain a physical presence in Brazil, wherefrom all coordination activities would be implemented. The other GEF Implementing Agencies, will be informed of meetings of the Steering Committee, and may participate in an ex-officio capacity. The project Steering Committee, at its first meeting to be convened after the project has been approved by the GEF, will be chaired by the SRH/MMA, in its capacity of the local Executing Agency. A Technical Co-ordinator, contracted with project funds will be selected in close consultation with all LAC countries focal points participating in this project, the OAS and UNEP, and will be working from Brazil (SRH/MMA). The Steering Committee will decide upon administrative and reporting procedures consistent with UNEP standards and OAS requirements for financial reporting. The Steering Committee will also endorse the institutional arrangement, the workplan and budget and any subsequent required revisions. The refined workplan and budget based on the information presented in this proposal will be prepared by the SRH/MMA in close consultation with the other LAC participating countries, and with UNEP and the OAS for presentation at the first Steering

Committee meeting prior to the initiation of the project activities. Finally, the Steering Committee, at its inaugural meeting, will conduct any other business that may be required to initiate project activities, and set a date for the second meeting. The Steering Committee will schedule its meetings at least every six months and will be supported by the host country and with funds provided by GEF through the Implementing Agency. UNEP and the OAS will support project execution.

OAS will act as Executing Agency and manage the funds provided to the project by UNEP, on behalf of GEF, consistent with UNEP and OAS budgetary and financial rules. The activities will be based upon preparatory work and terms of reference agreed with and approved by the local Executing Agency on behalf of all the LAC participating countries, in consultation with UNEP and the OAS. The activities will be executed by regional, sub-regional and local agencies of the countries where GEF-IW projects are under execution, as well as NGOs. The IWRN and the OAS will supervise the coordination of the field activities, as directed by the Steering Committee, through co-ordinators appointed from their staffs.

The participation of civil society organisations is a vital element of this project and will be ensured through website connections, technical meetings, seminars, and workshops at different levels.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

ACTIVITIES	MONTH																					
Completion of project activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	
Coordination																						
1.1. Convene three regional meetings																						
1.2. Implementation of Virtual Fora																						
1.3. Prepare a document/brochure and CD in the four OAS languages																						
1.4. Support the participation of key GEF-IW project managers to the series of international meetings leading to Third World Water Forum.																						
1.5. project twinning activities																						
2.1. Develop guidelines for inclusion of best practices and lessons learned.																						
2.2. Conduct three regional training workshop																						
3.1. Prepare a framework to strengthen the																						
3.2. Redesign the IWRN																						
3.3. Establish a sub-regional node in Brazil																						

3.4. Convene one workshop to assess the needs for training and equipment.																				
3.5. Assist countries to secure financing for the establishment of IWRN regional nodes in the Americas.																				
3.6. Ensure adequate linkages between IWRN and other regional and sub-regional networks																				
4.1. Identify five potential pilot projects to test the principals of ISP within the IWRN framework.																				
4.2. Meeting of GEF-IW and other water resources management project managers and ISP focal points.																				
5.1. Monitoring and evaluation.																				

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY ACTIVITY IN US \$

Activity	Month 1	Month 6	Month 12	Month 18	Month 22	Total
Steering Committee Meetings, Technical Coordination & Supervision *	UNEP: 19,000 OAS: 20,000	UNEP: 19,000 OAS: 20,000	UNEP: 19,000 OAS: 20,000	UNEP: 19,000 OAS: 20,000	UNEP: 19,000 OAS: 20,000	UNEP: 95,000 OAS: 100,000
Coordination	14,400	14,400	14,400	14,400	14,400	72,000
Activity 1.1	30,000	30,000	28,600			88,600
Activity 1.2	33,700	33,700				67,400
Activity 1.3		35,000	35,000	34,600		104,600
Activity 1.4		51,000	51,000	50,600		152,600
Activity 1.5	5,000	10,000	10,000			25,000
Activity 2.1	8,400	8,400				16,800
Activity 2.2		50,000	55,900			105,900
Activity 3.1	21,200	21,200				42,400
Activity 3.2	20,900	20,900				41,800
Activity 3.3	16,200	16,200				32,400
Activity 3.4		30,700				30,700
Activity 3.5		11,200				11,200
Activity 3.6	10,000	10,000				20,000
Activity 4.1		5,600	5,600			11,200
Activity 4.2			132,600			132,600
Activity 5.1			8,400		8,400	16,800
GEF TOTAL	154,800	338,300	356,500	99,600	22,800	972,000

* Reflects in-kind contribution by the Implementing and Executing Agencies, and is not taken into consideration in the GEF total.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

As noted in the proposed activities, the objective of this project is to strengthen communication, dissemination of information, and technical co-operation amongst agencies and civil society involved in water resources management activities. Since most of these GEF-IW funded activities are currently under implementation, public participation is already an intrinsic part of the process. Identification of stakeholders and their information needs/resources will be undertaken as part of this project under Component 3. In accordance with GEF principles of multi-stakeholders involvement and public participation, a key element of this project will be its participative approach ensuring extensive involvement of IWRN national, regional and sub-regional focal points, as well as all GEF IW projects and any other relevant water resources management projects focal points, local NGOs,... taking advantage of the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making (ISP).

The project will include, as essential elements, hyperlinks to home pages of relevant government agencies, scientific institutions, and NGOs being depositary of relevant water resources management information. Further, links to other networks with complementary objectives (e.g. IW:LEARN) to those of the IWRN will enhance information availability and exchange. It is intended that existing local networks, organised by local NGOs, be identified and included in the enhanced IWRN system.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

The administrative, technical, and financial reporting framework will be provided by the Implementing Agency through the Executing Agency and the Steering Committee using standard UNEP and OAS reporting protocols. The use of key process and status indicators will be an intrinsic part of the project:

Process Indicators

- Establishment of the Steering Committee for project implementation
- Redesign and sustainable implementation of the IWRN, appointment and/or confirmation of IWRN focal points, and establishment of up to five sub-regional nodes
- Establishment of virtual fora and mechanisms for the exchange of knowledge and experiences amongst GEF-IW project managers and other project proponents (e.g. UNEP, OAS, IW:LEARN project team,...)
- Publication and dissemination of proceedings of the various project meetings, and utilisation of the proceedings as an input to future international waters meetings (e.g. Third World Water Forum).

Stress Reduction Indicators

- National water authorities utilise the IWRN for information exchange and coordination
- National water authorities integrate holistic watershed management approaches in their water resources policies, plans, and processes
- ISP principals are included in national decision-making; stakeholders participate in decision-making and water resources management.

Environmental Status Indicators

- Knowledge base and lessons learned in water resources management available and utilised in the IW:LEARN project
- Goals, criteria and standards for monitoring are implemented

➤ Best management practices developed through GEF-IW projects identified and documented.

These status indicators will be refined and implemented within the project Components, as agreed by the Steering Committee and UNEP. The objectives of the monitoring are to contribute to improving, and, if needed, adapting the management of work program activities, and create a basis for project evaluation. Implementing Agency supervision will be exercised through the Executing Agency and by participation in the regular meetings of the Steering Committee. In the first and second meetings of the Steering Committee, the work plan and the terms of reference for project staff and consultants will be discussed and agreed, refining the process and status indicators set forth above.

A project implementation review will be undertaken jointly by the Government and UNEP, as an element of Component 5, within one year of the end of the other project activities.

This project document was circulated to GEF Sec and all IAs as part of the approval process. Comments received from UNDP are addressed in Annex VII.

Annex I

LIST OF GEF-IW PROJECTS IN LAC

(To be further refined at the inception of the project)

- *Lake Titicaca - UNDP – Peru, Bolivia
- *ISP-Participation in Gulf of Honduras and Portland Bight-medium size project -UNEP/OAS
- *Bermejo-UNEP/OAS – Bolivia, Argentina
- *Upper Paraguay-UNEP/OAS - Brazil
- *Plata Maritime Front-UNDP – Argentina, Uruguay
- *Sao Francisco Basin-UNEP/OAS - Brazil
- *San Juan Basin and Coast-UNEP/OAS – Costa Rica, Nicaragua
- *Argentina- Patagonia Marine Pollution-WB
- *Caribbean Contaminated Bays(Cuba and Jamaica)-UNDP
- *Caribbean : Planning For Adaptation to Climate Change-WB/OAS
- *Mesoamerica Barrier Reef- WB
- *Wider Caribbean Initiative for ship generated waste - WB-IMO
- *Guarani Aquifer—WB/OAS – Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay
- *Caribbean SIDS—UNDP/UNEP
- *Pesticides runoff to the Caribbean Sea –UNEP – Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia
- *Central America, DDT Alternatives-UNEP/OAS/PAHO - Gulf of Mexico
- *Putumayo Basin (Amazon)-WB/OAS – Brazil, Peru, Columbia, Ecuador
- *Global review of and support to integrated wetland, biodiversity and river basin management - UNDP– Global

Projects	Area of emphasis ³
Lake Titicaca	Freshwater biodiversity
ISP	Public Participation
Bermejo	Land degradation
Upper Paraguay	Wetland management
Sao Francisco	Multiple use
San Juan	Water Conflicts
Plata Maritime front	Pollution control – Habitat protection
Patagonian shelf	Marine pollution in LMEs
Caribbean contaminated bays	Marine pollution – sewage treatment
Caribbean Planning For Adaptation to Climate Change	Climate Change
Mesoamerica Barrier Reef	Marine biodiversity conservation
Wider Caribbean Initiative for ship generated waste	Ship waste management
Guarani Aquifer	Groundwater management
Caribbean SIDS	Water management in SIDS' environment
Pesticides runoff to the Caribbean sea	POPs (Agriculture)
Central America, DDT Alternatives	POPs
Putumayo Basin	Headwaters management
Global review of and support to integrated wetland, biodiversity and river basin management	Review of lessons learned from RAMSAR sites within shared river basins

³ The projects address multiple issues, the area of emphasis as presented here reflects major concerns prevailing in the area.

Annex II

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project, “Development and Implementation of Mechanisms to Disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean”, aims to promote South-to-South learning, develop and implement mechanisms to disseminate the lessons being learned in GEF International Waters-related (GEF-IW) projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, and improve capacity to integrated land and water resource management. This Medium Size Project (MSP) will serve as a demonstration project using Latin America and the Caribbean as a privileged site to illustrate how systematic exchange of project experiences, lessons learned, and best practices can improve integrated water resources management. Specifically, the project will strengthen and improve mechanisms for the dissemination of information and lessons learned from GEF-IW projects and other experiences in integrated land and water resources management within the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Brazil, as the host country for Dialogue IV, is well positioned to host a regional discussion of information dissemination and exchange with respect to GEF-IW projects. Brazil currently is involved in the execution of four GEF-IW projects—in the Sao Francisco, Upper Paraguay, Putumayo river basins and Guarani Aquifer—and, hence, has first hand knowledge of the nature and conduct of GEF-IW projects in the region. As these projects, as well as the other GEF-IW projects in the region, have achieved a level of maturity where information sharing would be useful and beneficial to each of the projects, Dialogue IV provides a unique opportunity for the conduct of discussions designed to facilitate such information sharing. Such discussions would not only benefit existing GEF-IW projects in the region but also lead to the establishment of a sustainable mechanism for consultation and co-operation in the fields of watershed management and information technology.

This proposal, based upon GEF-IW OP 10, specifically addresses the short-term objectives of “dissemination of lessons learned from ongoing projects, and sharing of learning experiences and best management practices, within groups of countries co-operating on transboundary water projects.” It aims to catalyse a process that can be replicated through the IW:LEARN project and related initiatives of UNEP and the GEF, using Latin America and the Caribbean as a privileged site within which to develop the necessary approaches, mechanisms, and infrastructure.

The 15 activities proposed in this project were identified through a consultative process conducted within the region and are organised under five project components. These activities address identified needs related to information on water management, and take advantage of the opportunities for discussion provided by the forthcoming Dialogue IV. One further, preparatory activity, that of establishing the agenda for the discussions at the Dialogue IV meeting by means of an electronic discussion forum (e-forum) moderated by UNEP, is to be completed prior to the initiation of this project. The e-forum will create a framework within which the ensuing discussions will take place, identify the elements that are to be included in the discussions that follow, and inform the process to be initiated at the Dialogue IV meeting that comprises the starting point for this MSP.

In all activities, priority will be given to local expertise in accordance with the principle of participative approach.

Component 1 - Foster dialogue amongst GEF-IW and other related water resource management projects in LAC establishing a mechanism to share recent accomplishments,

experiences from the planning and management of IW projects, lessons learned, and best practices.

GEF-IW project managers not only need a means of communication with each other to address common concerns, but also a mechanism whereby they can meet with government officials, local authorities, and stakeholders to discuss the strategies for incorporating lessons learned in water resources management practices and policies. Special sub-regional meetings will initiate the process, which then will be continued through a Virtual Forum, integrated into a refined Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN). To facilitate this process, up to five, identified sub-regional nodes may be provided with necessary additional equipment (anticipated to primarily consist of adequately-sized servers) to facilitate the participation of local stakeholders. This exchange of lessons learned and best practices from GEF-IW projects in the region will be launched at the forthcoming Dialogue IV meeting in Brazil (September 2001).

Because of the primary role of the IWRN in this process, the network will be made more user-friendly, and redesigned to facilitate information exchange amongst water resources authorities and river basin authorities in the region. A more dynamic process of consultation will be implemented through the Virtual Forum and IWRN will assume a new role in moderating it. This Virtual Forum will facilitate and enhance the dissemination of lessons learned and best river basin management practices. As an essential part of this project, a regional node of IWRN will be created in Brazil and, with the experience gathered through the development of this facility, other sub-regional nodes will be implemented. These actions will make the IWRN a fast and reliable communications tool with a much broader range. Smaller communities, river basin authorities serving smaller river basins, and identified stakeholders will easily access water resources information.

The Virtual Forum will be established in the first instance to initiate this process, building upon the results of Dialogue IV. The Forum will be utilised, as appropriate, to obtain information on specific discussion points, and will provide a mechanism to refine and enhance the role of the IWRN. The results of the discussions completed within the Forum will be posted on the IWRN sites and will provide potential inputs for discussion during the major global and international water events (e.g. Third World Water Forum).

The financial inputs requested from the GEF for the specific activities comprising this Component are:

1.1. Convene three regional meetings to exchange information amongst GEF-IW and other water resources management project managers: **US \$ 88,600**

Facilitator: 6 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 3) = US \$ 33,600

Travel/Meetings: 20 participants:

per-diem: (20p x 5d x US \$ 100/d x 3) = US \$ 30,000

tickets: (US \$ 1,000 x 20) = US \$ 20,000

Support services: US \$ 5,000

1.2. Implementation of **Virtual Fora** to facilitate information exchange on water resources management issues, outlining lessons learned and best practices, using IWRN as a platform with the IWRN Secretariat acting as moderator for the electronic discussion. This activity will provide inputs to forthcoming global international waters meetings (e.g Third World Water Forum): **US \$ 67,400**

Local Technical Expertise: 4 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 4) = US \$ 22,400

Sub-contracts with local experienced entities for the virtual forum = US \$ 30,000

Equipment: complementary equipment for the Virtual Forum = US \$ 10,000

Support services: US \$ 5,000

1.3. As a result of the regional meetings and the Virtual Fora, a comprehensive document/brochure and CD, in the four OAS languages, will be prepared. These products will disseminate the results of this project, outlining water resources practices and lessons learned in the Americas. These materials will be presented at the Third World Water Forum as well as all related meetings: **US \$ 104,600**

Local Technical Expertise: 3 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 3) = US \$ 16,800

Sub-contracts with local experienced entities for:

Document translation: (US \$ 80/page x 40 x 4) = US \$ 12,800

Editing and Printing: US \$ 11 x 5000 copies: = US \$ 55,000

Electronic edition (5000 CD): US \$ 15,000

Support services: US \$ 5,000

1.4. Support for the participation of key GEF-IW project managers in the series of international meetings leading to the Third World Water Forum: **US \$ 152,600**

Travel/Meetings: 45 participants:

air tickets: US \$ 2,000/ticket x 45 = US \$ 90,000

per-diem: US \$ 180/d x 45 x 6 = US \$ 48,600

fees and charges not included in per-diem: US \$ 200 x 45 = US \$ 9,000

Support services: US \$ 5,000

1.5. Organise exchange of project officers amongst the projects in LAC (twinning): **US\$25,000**

Travel (twinning amongst 5 projects): 15 participants

per diem: (15p x 5d x US\$ 80.00) = US\$6,000

air tickets: (15 x US1,300) = US\$19,000

Component 2. - Foster the inclusion of lessons learned and best practices into water resources management practices.

The experience acquired during the execution of GEF-IW projects is valuable and involves all stakeholders within the subject river basins. Presently most countries develop actions to implement national and local water resources management systems at different levels. This historically has proceeded in relative isolation and often on a sectoral level, leading to significant disconnects in the goals, objectives and methods of water resources management. Many of the consequent problems and issues of concern potentially could have been avoided with improved communication and information-sharing. Therefore, it is of great importance to share this experience and include the lessons learned into the routine water management practices.

The financial inputs requested from the GEF for the specific activities comprising this Component are:

2.1. Develop specific guidelines for inclusion of best practices and lessons learned into policies and regulations and in the development of new water resources management activities: **US \$ 16,800**

Local Technical Expertise: 3 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 3) = US \$ 16,800

2.2. Conduct three regional training workshop with a view to promoting the inclusion of lessons learned and best practices in the development of new activities: **US \$ 105,900**

Local Technical Expertise: 4 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 4) = US \$ 22,400

Sub-contracts with local experienced entities for: lease of electronic equipment: US \$ 50,000

Travel/Meetings: 15 participants:

per-diem: (15p x 3d x US \$ 100/d x 3) = US \$ 13,500

air tickets: (US \$ 1,000/tk) = US \$ 15,000

Support services: US \$ 5,000

Component 3- Strengthening of the IWRN as the principal hemispheric communication tool for integrated water resources management.

Processes for sharing and disseminating experiences and lessons learned from GEF-IW projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, via the Internet as well as through other media, will be identified, tested and refined for future use.

The financial inputs requested from the GEF for the specific activities comprising this Component are:

3.1. Prepare a framework to strengthen the IWRN as a hemispheric communication tool for integrated land and water resources management: **US \$ 42,400**

Local Technical Expertise: 4 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 4) = US \$ 22,400

Sub-contracts with local experienced entities for:

Document translation : US \$ 10,000

Document editing and printing (B/W): US \$ 5,000

Support services: US\$ 5,000

3.2. Redesign the IWRN web site making it an interactive metadata site, ensuring information exchange rather than just information dissemination, using protocols for searching, accessing and acquiring information and data, enhancing its dialogue function: **US \$ 41,800**

Local Technical Expertise: 3 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 3) = US \$ 16,800

Sub-contracts with local experienced entities for: website design: US \$ 20,000

Support services: US \$ 5,000

3.3. Establish a sub-regional node in Brazil as well as in selected potential Thematic Centers of Excellence—as a pilot sites within this activity—to test the website and related communications tools: **US \$ 32,400**

Local Technical Expertise: 4 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 4) = US \$ 22,400

Sub-contracts with local experienced entities for: webmaster: US \$ 10,000

3.4. Convene one workshop to assess the needs for training and equipping of water resources professionals and NGOs within Brazil to utilise the IWRN; and provide training where needed to promote access to, and use of, the IWRN by water resources professionals and NGOs: **US \$ 30,700**

Local Technical Expertise: 2 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 2) = US \$ 11,200

Travel/Meetings: 15 participants:

per-diem: (15p x 5d x US \$ 100/d) = US \$ 7,500

air tickets: US \$ 800/tk = US \$ 12,000

3.5. Assist countries in securing financing for the establishment of IWRN sub-regional nodes in the Americas: **US \$ 11,200**

Local Technical Expertise: 2 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 2) = US \$ 11,200

3.6. Ensure adequate linkages between IWRN and other regional and sub-regional networks involved in water resources management: **US \$ 20,000**

Sub-contracts with local experienced entities for: webmaster: US \$ 15,000

Equipment: US \$ 5,000

Component 4 - Involve civil society according to principles set forth in the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making (ISP).

The financial inputs requested from the GEF for the specific activities comprising this Component are:

4.1. Identify five sub-regional and/or national (one in each of the sub-regions of the Americas) pilot projects to test the principals of ISP within the IWRN framework: **US \$ 11,200**

Local Technical Expertise: 2 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 2) = US \$ 11,200

4.2. Organise a special meeting of GEF-IW and other water resources management project managers and ISP focal points to facilitate the inclusion of the principles of the ISP in water resources management projects, and help to reduce misunderstandings and conflicts through proper consultation with the civil society: **US \$ 157,600**

Local Technical Expertise: 1 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m) = US \$ 5,600

Travel/Meetings: 53 participants

air tickets: US \$ 1,500/ticket x 53 = US \$ 79,500

per-diem: US \$ 120/d x 70 x 5 = US \$ 42,000

Support services: US \$ 5,500

Component 5 - Monitoring and Evaluation.

The financial inputs requested from the GEF for the specific activities comprising this Component are:

5.1. In addition to the monitoring and evaluation activities exercised by the GEF Implementing Agency, and in addition to the day-to-day monitoring of activities by the OAS as the Executing Agency, the OAS will co-ordinate a mid-term and final evaluation of the project activities: **US \$ 16,800**

Local Technical Expertise: 3 p/m (US \$ 35.00/h x 160h/m x 3) = US \$ 16,800

Annex III
Letter of endorsement from Brazil



MINISTÉRIO DO ORÇAMENTO E GESTÃO
SECRETARIA DE ASSUNTOS INTERNACIONAIS

Ofício nº 023 /SEAIN/MP

Brasília, 07 de fevereiro de 2001.

Senhor Ministro,

Tenho a satisfação de informar a V.Sa. que a proposta do projeto *Capacity Building and Dissemination of Initial Lessons Learned in Addressing Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean* (cópia anexa), que pleiteia recursos de doação do GEF, apresentado pelo Ministério do Meio Ambiente, recebeu o endosso desta Ponto Focal Operacional, em reunião do Grupo de Trabalho para Análise de Projetos de Meio Ambiente - GTAP, realizada nesta Secretaria, em 19/12/2000.

2. Solicito os bons ofícios de V.Sa. no sentido de instruir a Embaixada do Brasil em Nairóbi, a notificar o PNUMA sobre o referido endosso.

Atenciosamente,


Washington Aquino de Mendonça
Coordenador-Geral de Operações Sociais

Ao Senhor
Ministro EVERTON VARGAS
Chefe da Divisão do Meio Ambiente
Ministério das Relações Exteriores
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Anexo II, Sala 29 - 2º andar
70170-900 Brasília-DF

C/C Sra. Hidely Grassi Rizzo
MMA/SRH
Fax nº 223-5366

© 2001 Ministério do Meio Ambiente - Secretaria de Assuntos Internacionais - PNUMA Transboundary Water Resource

Letter of endorsement from Nicaragua
Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
MARENA


IV - IWRN/G-C. P01

 MT 24-V-10-0716 2001
 Managua, 11 de Octubre de 2001

 Señor
 Klaus Toepfer
 Director Ejecutivo
 Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
 PNUMA, Nairobi, Kenya
 Su Despacho -

Estimado Señor Toepfer:

Analizando la iniciativa de Proyecto de "Desarrollo y puesta en práctica de mecanismos para diseminar lecciones aprendidas y mejoras prácticas de manejo integrado de recursos hídricos transfronterizos en América Latina y el Caribe", tomando en cuenta los objetivos y componentes del proyecto en mención, queremos manifestarle que es de particular interés para Nicaragua, que se establezcan mecanismos de cooperación e intercambio de experiencias, las cuales, a nuestro juicio, por su conocimiento permitirán, recoger todas aquellas que apoyen las políticas y marcos legales necesarios para el aprovechamiento nacional y conservación de los recursos hídricos nacionales.

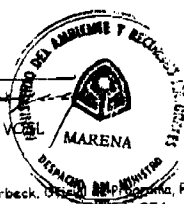
Sobre la base de lo anterior y considerando que actualmente nos encontramos en el proceso de aprobación de la política nicaragüense de recursos hídricos, como base a la legislación de aguas, pensamos que los instrumentos de diseminación de estas experiencias, contribuirán al trabajo, que a través de los Equipos de Alto Rendimiento, se está realizando en pro de la política y legislación de los recursos hídricos de Nicaragua.

Con el fortalecimiento de los vínculos entre los proyectos y retomando lo experimentado en la región latinoamericana, tal a como se expresó en la reunión de puntos focales de la RIRH, en Foz de Iguazu, se estará a la vez consolidando la cooperación interamericana, en materia de aguas internacionales.

Asimismo, expresarle nuestro más decidido apoyo, en nombre del Gobierno de Nicaragua por un lado y como Punto Focal GEF por el otro, endosando la iniciativa presentada al PNUMA para el proyecto arriba indicado.

Sin otro particular, con nuestros de consideración y estima, les saludamos.

Atentamente,

 ROBERTO STADTHAGEN VIZCARRA
 Ministro

 Cc: Srta. Isabelle Vutcherbeck, Oficina de Asesoría Técnica, PNUMA
 Sr. Richard Meganck, Director, ODSMA, OEA
 Archivo/AZC

 GARCIA A. CANTARERO
 Punto Focal GEF

Despacho del Ministro Tels.: (505) 263 1271-73, Telefax: (505) 263 1274 Aptdo. Postal No. 5123 Managua, Nicaragua, C.A.

Letter of endorsement from Costa Rica

10/25/01 14:07 FAX 202 458 3188

OAS USDE

002/002
002

18/10 01 14:48 FAX 000000000

XXXXXX XXXXXXX



REPÚBLICA DE COSTA RICA

Ministerio del Ambiente y Energía
Departamento de la MineríaSan José, 18 de Octubre del 2001
DM-1765-2001Señor
Klaus Töpfer
Director Ejecutivo
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente - PNUMA
P.O. Box 30 552
Nairobi, Kenia

Estimado Señor Töpfer:

Hemos revisado con atención el documento de proyecto "Desarrollo e implementación de mecanismos para disseminar las lecciones aprendidas y las mejores prácticas de Manejo de Recursos Hídricos Transfronterizos", que está siendo sometido a consideración del Fondo Mundial Ambiental, y cuyo alcance sería de beneficio para muchos países de nuestra región.

La Propuesta de proyecto, que nos fuera remitida por parte del señor Richard Megánck, Director de la Unidad de Desarrollo Sostenible de la Organización de Estados Americanos, resulta sumamente interesante; tanto en su contenido como en su mecanismo de ejecución. Es sabido que el tema de los recursos hídricos será sin duda uno de los elementos centrales de la Agenda Internacional Ambiental de los próximos años, y particularmente los esfuerzos que a nivel binacional y multilateral se están realizando para encontrar opciones más razonables de gestión de estos recursos.

Por otra parte, una de las grandes dificultades que nuestros países en desarrollo han enfrentado en los últimos años, se refiere a las limitaciones para compartir y sacar provecho de experiencias exitosas en muchos campos, incluido el de los recursos hídricos.

Consecuentemente, me permito manifestarle el interés del Gobierno de Costa Rica por el proyecto mencionado, y nuestro decidido apoyo para que sea considerado favorablemente para financiamiento por parte del Fondo Mundial de Medio Ambiente.

Atentamente,

Elizabeth Ochoa Bonilla
MINISTRA

Copia para:

Isabel Ventero, Oficial de Programa, PNUMA
Jorge Roca, Unidad de Desarrollo Sostenible y Medio Ambiente, OEA, Washington
Dr. Ricardo Ulate Chacón, Dirección de Cooperación Internacional
Archivo

COPIA



Letter of endorsement from St Vincent and Grenadines

10/30/01 TUE 18:00 FAX 202 458 3560

OAS-USDE

002

10/30/2001 10:21 FAX 784 457 2684

MIN OF HEALTH

01

Ministry Of Health & The Environment
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines

29th October, 2001

Klaus Toepfer
Executive Director
United Nations Environmental Program
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Sir

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines firmly support the project "Development and Implementation of Mechanisms to Disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Transboundary Water Resource Management in Latin America and the Caribbean (IWRN)".

This IWRN project will greatly assist Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Group of Latin American Countries (GRULAC) country in general as we grapple with the issue of water resource management.

Sir, please accept this letter as an official endorsement of the said project by the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Sincerely


Dr. Reynold Murray
Environmental Services Coordinator/
GEF Focal Point

Cc: Richard A Meganck 202 458 3560
Director
Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment
OAS, Washington

Isabell Vanderbeck 254 262 2798
Programme Officer
UNEP

Letter of endorsement from Jamaica



MINISTRY OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENT

1 DEVON ROAD, P.O. BOX 272, KINGSTON 6, JAMAICA
Telephone 927-9741-3; Fax 929-7349

November 20, 2001

Dr. Klaus Topfer
Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Sir,

**GEF Project Proposal – Integrated Transboundary Water
Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean**

I refer to the project proposal – Development and Implementation of Mechanisms to Disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management to be implemented in Brazil, working with Latin America and Caribbean States.

The proposal was reviewed and it is considered that the outputs will be beneficial to Jamaica and an example of Inter-American co-operation that will support the capacity development of the countries in the region in the critical area of water resources.

As GEF Focal Point, I hereby convey support for the water resources management project.

Yours faithfully,


Leonie Barnaby
for Permanent Secretary

c.c. Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck
Program Officer UNEP

Letter of endorsement from Panama




January 18, 2002
AG-0103-02

Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif
Director
Global Environment Facility
UNEP

Dear Sir:

It is with great pleasure that in my capacity as GEF Focal Point for the Republic of Panama, I wish to endorse the project "Development and Implementation of Mechanisms to Disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean", I also wish to express that I am in agreement that UNEP act as the Implementing Agency, and that the OAS act as the Executing Agency for this project.

With best regards,


Ricardo Anguizola
General Administrator ANAM
GEF Focal Point Panama



cc.

- Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck Task Manager for GEF International Waters projects in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Richard A. Meganck, Director, Sustainable Development and Environment Organization of American States
- Andre Merla, GEF Secretariat.

Letter of support from Bolivia

11/01/01 15:44 FAX 202 458 3168

OAS USDE

0002

DE : COMISION PILCOMAYO BERMEJO

NO. DE TEL : 591 66 45246

OCT. 31 2001 10:35AM P1

Att. Jorge Rucke



729-

*Comisión Nacional de los Ríos
Pilcomayo y Bermejo*

Tanja, 3 de octubre de 2001
CNRPB-OTN Of. No. 134/01

Señor

Emb. Fernando Rojas Alayza

VICE MINISTRO DE POLÍTICA EXTERIOR

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y CULTO

S. D.

Ref.: Proyecto "Desarrollo y Puesta en Práctica de Mecanismos para
Diseminar Lecciones Aprendidas y Mejores Prácticas de Manejo
Integrado de Recursos Hídricos Transfronterizos en América Latina y
Caribe.

Sr. Vice Ministro:

El Sr. Richard A. Megank, Director de la Unidad de Desarrollo Sostenible y Medio Ambiente de la OEA, me ha dirigido una carta fechada el 21 de septiembre próximo pasado, copia de la cual y del "Project Summary" en 37 páginas adjunto a la presente.

En la carta mencionada en el párrafo anterior, el Sr. Megank solicita que yo analice la propuesta y, de considerarla de interés, realice las gestiones pertinentes para su apoyo por parte del Punto Focal del GEF en Bolivia, para este proyecto que ha sido solicitado por el Gobierno de Brasil.

Considero que el proyecto sería ventajoso para Bolivia, por las razones siguientes:

- Proporcionará un mecanismo para diseminar y compartir las lecciones aprendidas y las mejores prácticas para el manejo Integrado de los recursos hídricos en Latino América y el Caribe.
- No requiere de ningún compromiso económico por parte de Bolivia, pues será financiado en su integridad por el Fondo Mundial del Medio Ambiente (GEF), Brasil, OEA y UNEP.

OFICINA TÉCNICA NACIONAL

Teléfono +591-66-42810 - Fax +591-66-45246 - Cajón Postal 1106 - TARIJA - BOLIVIA

11/01/01 15:44 FAX 202 458 3168

OAS USDE

0003

DE : COMISION PILCOMAYO BERMEJO

NO. DE TEL : 591 66 45246

OCT. 31 2001 10:55AM P2



*Comisión Nacional de los Ríos
Pilcomayo y Bermejo*

CNRPB-OTN Of. No. 134/01 2.

Me he puesto en contacto telefónico con el señor Carlos Díaz Escobar, Director Nacional de SENAMHI y Punto Focal Nacional de la Red Interamericana de Recursos Hídricos, quien ha manifestado su acuerdo con el anterior análisis.

También he consultado con la OEA sobre quién debería dirigir la nota o endoso a nombre de Bolivia, y por "e mail" de la fecha, copia del cual también adjuntamos, el Sr. Pablo González de la OEA, nos informa que la nota o endoso debería ser enviada por el Punto Focal Político, Bernardo Requena.

Por lo anterior, Sr. Vice Ministro, le solicito que, en caso de que Ud. estuviera de acuerdo, gestione el apoyo del Sr. Bernardo Requena, Vice Ministro de Inversión Pública y Financiamiento Externo, para que él dirija una nota al Sr. Klaus Toepfer, Director Ejecutivo, Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA), P.O.Box 30 552, Nairobi, Kenia, expresando el apoyo a esta iniciativa del Gobierno del Brasil.

Quedo a la espera de sus comentarios, y aprovecho la oportunidad para saludarle muy atentamente.


Ing. Jorge O'Connor d'Arish M.
DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO

Adj. Lo mencionado

cc. Archivo

[REPORTE DE TRANSMISION]

OCT. 03 2001 05:08PM

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OFICINA TECNICA NACIONAL
Teléfono +591-66-42610 - Fax +591-66-45246 - Cajón Postal 1136 - TARIJA - BOLIVIA

Annex IV
Letter of support from IW:LEARN



**International Waters: Learning Exchange and
Resource Network (IW:LEARN)**

September 20, 2001

I am writing in support of the GEF Medium Size Project (MSP), "Development and Implementation of Mechanism to Disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in Latin American and the Caribbean," proposed for implementation by UNEP-GEF and execution by the Organization of American States (OAS) and its national partners.

Over 30 IW managers and technical coordinators in the LAC region have recently expressed their interest in sharing best practices and lessons learned through their participation in a limited-duration UNEP-GEF/IW:LEARN electronic forum and complementary 2-day meeting we sponsored in Foz do Iguaçu in September 2001. *The MSP systematically addresses the GEF projects' need to use one others' experience to maximize the efficiency of GEF financial support.*

IW:LEARN, the GEF's primary vehicle for distance learning and knowledge sharing across International Waters (IW) projects, also views this MSP as an integral component of our overall efforts to document, store and disseminate best management practices and lessons across the IW community. In partnership with UNEP, IW:LEARN's efforts in this domain consist of developing an IW best practices database to house the valuable knowledge generated through processes such as proposed in this MSP. Such a database is, however, only as successful as the participatory mechanisms used to collect and disseminate the underlying knowledge. *The UNEP-OAS MSP utilizes an established regional community (the Inter-American Water Resources Network) within which to effectively develop and generate valuable IW knowledge inputs to populate IW:LEARN-UNEP's best practices database and provide such insights to the LAC region and beyond.*

This MSP will also serve as a bridge between IW:LEARN pilot phase and its implementation phase starting in 2003. IW:LEARN is currently limited in the number of pilot projects it can pursue during its pilot phase. *This regional pilot project increases the set of tested knowledge sharing mechanisms for IW:LEARN to consider for serving the GEF IW community during our implementation phase.*

Finally, the MSP provides a model for parallel activities in other GEF regions. IW:LEARN hopes to subsequently replicate the UNEP-OAS process in other GEF-supported regions, thereby leveraging their pilot project to benefit GEF-IW activities world-wide. *Thus, this MSP provides a framework upon which IW:LEARN-UNEP can build a larger system of global knowledge sharing activities.*

In sum, *I strongly endorse the GEF's strategic funding to advance inter-project experience-sharing under this MSP.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Sklarow, Ph.D.
Chief Technical Advisor, IW:LEARN

Annex V

GEF-IW-LAC PROJECT MANAGERS' FORUM REPORT TO THE FOURTH INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE ON WATER MANAGEMENT - FOZ DO IGUAÇU, BRAZIL – 1-2 SEPTEMBER 2001

BACKGROUND

Thirty project managers from nine International Waters Projects, being conducted with incremental funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF-IW) in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC), exchanged information, experiences, and lessons learned prior to and during the Fourth Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management. This process was designed to construct relationships, exchange information, identify appropriate mechanisms to manage and share this information, and determine a means of continuing this process of information sharing and dissemination.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

- The GEF-IW program has developed a considerable volume of information, experience and knowledge within the LAC region which has not been adequately disseminated or included in development processes;
- The time is ripe for the development of mechanisms to share this information, experience, and knowledge;
- There is a need for a mechanism to disseminate information, experiences and knowledge in order to influence policy and process to achieve the integrated management of water resources within a context of socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development.

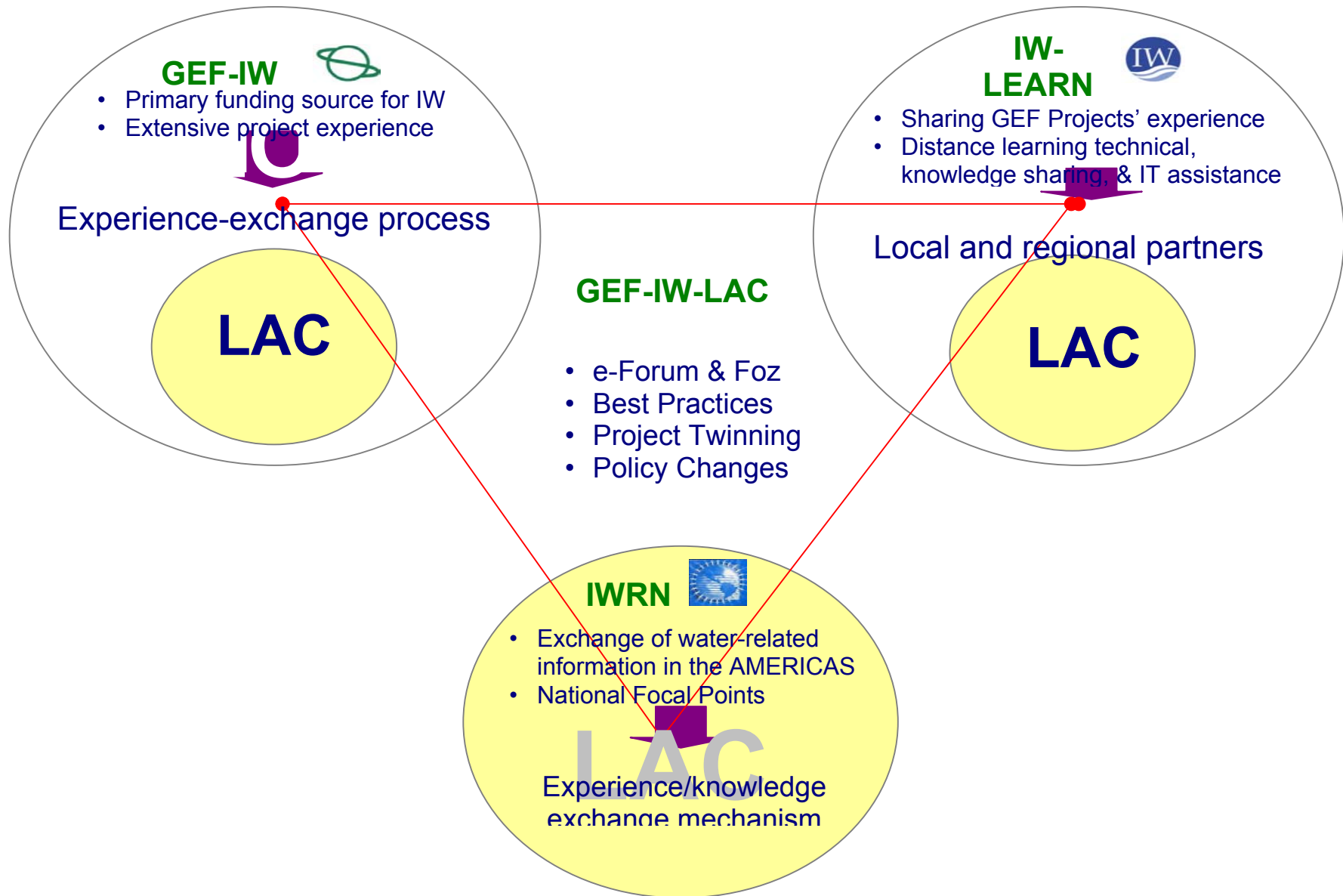
POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The GEF-IW program is the primary vehicle for developing the information, experience and knowledge necessary for formulating and implementing sustainable water resources management and development within the LAC region. This primacy was recognised:

- By integrating the information, experience and knowledge of the GEF-IW LAC program with the Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN), this information, experience and knowledge can reach a broader community of decision-makers and policy-makers throughout the LAC region;
- Access to such information, experience and knowledge will enable this community to translate best practices into policy and legal and institutional frameworks across the spectrum of local water resources and transboundary basins;
- Synergies with IW-LEARN can provide this information, experience and knowledge, already in place, to GEF-IW projects likely to be developed or implemented within the LAC region or replicated at the global scale.

Annex VI

Links between GEF-IW, IWRN, and IW:LEARN



ANNEX VII

UNDP MSP REVIEW AND RESPONSE

COMMENTS FROM UNDP ON UNEP'S MSP ENTITLED "DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MECHANISMS TO DISSEMINATE LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES IN INTEGRATED TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN".

Overall this is a good proposal which UNDP supports as an important contribution to the Regional/Global Technical Support component of OP10. The intended linkages with and endorsement from the global IW:LEARN project bodes well for the possible success of the project as a demonstration of a regional scale knowledge sharing exercise.

Since the project proposes to support knowledge sharing among the Caribbean SIDS, linkages and coordination should also be included with SIDSNet, given the overlap in certain objectives and themes. IW:LEARN has already developed such linkages so it is a natural extension for IWRN to do the same. Similar linkages should also be explored with the MSP presently under development, Global Review of and Support to Integrating Wetland, Biodiversity and River Basin Management, which includes a review of the lessons learned from Ramsar sites within shared river basins.

The proposal is inconsistent in referring to the geographic scope of the international waters environments to be addressed, e.g. in some places "watershed and coastal zone", others "transboundary river basins" or simply "water resources management". Similarly, 5 of the 17 LAC projects listed in Annex I are marine/coastal projects such as Patagonia and Plata/MF. Assuming the project intends to promote knowledge sharing among the whole spectrum of LAC IW projects and settings (e.g. river basin, groundwater system, coastal zone, LME, SIDS), this should be explicitly stated.

The presence of only one LAC country (Brazil) on the Steering Committee doesn't seem particularly inclusive or representative. Project should consider including several other countries on the Steering Committee, perhaps representing selected LAC constituencies along the same lines as the GEF Council. For example, representation could include the countries that formally endorsed the project proposal.

All of the indicators summarised in the M&E Plan on p.25 are process indicators, none are stress reduction or environmental status indicators.

RESPONSE TO UNDP's COMMENTS ON UNEP'S MSP ENTITLED "DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MECHANISMS TO DISSEMINATE LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES IN INTEGRATED TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN". "

Overall, the comments of UNDP are supportive of the implementation this LAC IW knowledge sharing MSP. Specific response to UNDP's queries and remarks are provided herebelow.

1. Linkages with SIDSNet

We have taken good note of UNDP's recommendations for linkages and coordination with SIDSNet. In linking with SIDSNet we will make sure to draw on IW:LEARN experience on the matter. Further, the MSP project "Global Review of and Support to Integrating Wetland, Biodiversity and River Basin Management" which includes a review of the lessons learned from Ramsar sites within shared river basins has been included in the list of projects presented in Annex I of the document. This list will be reviewed and refined at the inception of the project and will form the basis for this regionally based knowledge sharing exercise. In addition specific references to SIDSNet have been incorporated on pages 9,12 and 15.

2. Geographical scope of the international waters environments

For clarity, a footnote precisng the scope of this project and referring to the GEF definition of International Waters has been added on page 1. It should be noted though that the term "basin" reflects UNEP's and to some extent most of the professional community's definition of the term and does not exclude the coastal zone which is the natural end point of most systems at the exception of endorhic systems such as the lakeTiticaca system.

3. LAC countries in the Steering Committee

The virtual committee mirrors GEF's own system of dealing with proposals whereby not every GEF proposal is discussed in person within the council but rather are distributed electronically and input delivered in the same manner. For clarity, the institutional arrangement as outlined on page 22 as been amended to ensure that that all endorsing countries are included via network linkages in a virtual steering committee. In addition, the project will maintain a physical presence in Brazil, wherefrom all coordination activities will be implemented.

4. Indicators

The list as presented in the document follows GEFguidance document and addresses all three types of indicators. The majority of indicators are naturally process indicators since the purpose of the project is to create and implement a process. However, in terms of stress reduction, the content of the network will assist countries to address environmental concerns through information exchange and holistic/watershed based management of resources; and address environmental status indicators by developing common, transboundary standards, etc.

Annex VIII - GEF Sec. Project Review Sheet and response**GEF SECRETARIAT MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT AGREEMENT REVIEW**

Country/Region : Brazil

Project Title : Development and Implementation of Mechanisms to disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean

GEFSEC Project ID : 1426

Operational Program : 10

Implementing Agency(ies) : UNEP

Anticipated project financing (\$ million) : PDF \$ 0.97 GEF Project Allocation \$ 0.97 Total Project Cost : 1.64

Target Work Program Date :

Program Manager : Andrea Merla

IA Contact Person : John Pernetta

Summary

The proposed project, aims to promote South-to-South learning, develop and implement mechanisms to disseminate the lessons being learned in GEF International Waters-related (GEF-IW) projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, and improve capacity to integrated land and water resource management. This Medium Size Project (MSP) will complement the International Waters-Learn (IW-Learn) project of UNDP in the implementation of its mandate to improve communications and outreach between countries worldwide. Specifically, the project would act as a demonstration project using Latin America and the Caribbean as a privileged site to illustrate the functioning of a network system. This network would facilitate the exchange of project experiences and results, provide a mechanism for the dissemination and replication of lessons learned and best management practices to improve water resources management, as well as encourage the assimilation of lessons learned into national water resources management policies and river basin master plans.

Expected Outputs

With the implementation of the present project, it is expected that Latin American and Caribbean countries, and especially river-basin organizations, national water authorities and water stakeholders, will have an increased understanding and capacity to address properly the technical, social, legal, and ecological issues facing water resources management in the region.

management knowledge, experiences, and best practices; and strengthened collaboration amongst riparian countries leading to

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management organizations and river basin authorities for sharing information and experiences via the Internet as well as through
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this project forming critical inputs for further discussion at the Dublin + 10, Third World Water Forum, and related
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Comments :

Recommendations :

1. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

Country Eligibility:

Eligible under para. 9(b) of GEF Instrument

Country Drivnness:

The Gov. of Brazil is committing substantial cash co-financing to the project, and will co-execute it through the Secretariat of Water resources of the Ministry of Environment.

Endorsement :

Brazil has endorsed. Endorsements from other LAC countries is pending (Antigua, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Peru).

2. PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY

Program Designation and Conformity

The proposed project would better conform with OP9 objectives an criteria. Submission under OP9 is hence recommended.

Project Design

Sustainability (including financial sustainability)

December 14, 2001

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Replicability:

Stakeholder Involvement:

Monitoring and Evaluation:

3. FINANCING

Financing Plan

Implementing Agency Fees

4. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

Core Commitments and Linkages

Consultation, Coordination, Collaboration between IAs, and IAs and EAs, if appropriate

5. RESPONSE TO REVIEWS

Convention Secretariat

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GEF Secretariat

Other IAs and RDBs

Review by expert from STAP Roster

[Redacted]

(for records purpose only, not pre-conditions)

[Redacted]

The program manager would recommend the proposal for CEO approval subject to:
 (i) re-submission under Op9
 (ii) confirmation of endorsements from a representative number of other LAC countries.

[Redacted]

December 14, 2001

Page 5 of 5

Response to GEF. Sec Review Sheet

As per the review sheet: “The program manager would recommend the proposal for CEO approval subject to: (i) re-submission under OP9, (ii) confirmation of endorsements from a representative number of other LAC countries.

- ◆ The MSP proposal has been amended to fit under OP9 as reflected on page one, and ten.
- ◆ The proposal has recently been endorsed by Panama bringing the total number of endorsements to 6 that is from Brasil, St Vincent and Grenadines, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Bolivia has also provided its support through the Director of the Binational Commission for the Rio Bermejo and Pilcomayo (see Annex III). The support of IW:LEARN and potential synergies between the two projects are formalised in a support letter from Mr Sklarew, Director IW:LEARN
- ◆ Finally the text has been slightly edited for enhanced clarity.

ANNEX IX

GEF SEC REVIEW OF 21 AUGUST 2002 & RESPONSE

Aduda@worldbank.org 2002/08/21 11:19 PM	To: Isabelle.Vanderbeck@unep.org, kristin.elliott@rona.unep.org, Vladimir.Mamaev@unep.org Cc: robin.burgess@rona.unep.org, Ahmed.Djoghla@unep.org, Amerla@worldbank.org, Hacquay@worldbank.org, Srechache@worldbank.org Subject: Proposed IW MSP-Development and Implementation of Mechanisms to Disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean
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Dear Isabelle, Vladimir, and Kristin,

Per discussions with Herbert and a number of submissions of drafts of the subject proposal, we believe that you are close to receiving technical clearance of this important IW MSP.

Perhaps you might make 2 revisions to incorporate final GEFSEC comments. Andrea had recommended technical clearance earlier, but these two suggestions would revolve two remaining issues. And thank you for securing the additional focal point endorsements that demonstrate country interest in this initiative.

The first point relates to operational program. We did suggest earlier putting this in OP 9. However, it does more closely fit OP 10, the regional/global technical support component.

The second point relates to the use of consultancies and possible reallocation of some consultant/subcontract funding. In IW, GEF seeks to facilitate those who have experiences in transboundary water resources to actively dialogue with others rather than to send consultants around to put together the experiences of others. In practical terms, this would mean having more small contracts to those who have experiences to share rather than larger contracts with experts.

We accept that those with such experiences should be paid to document these experiences and to interact with groups of people like themselves in sharing the experiences that may eventually become "lessons learned". For example, and in accordance with the ISP, NGOs might then be contracted to document/describe their experiences in transboundary waters that may be vetted in larger groups before becoming "best practices". Perhaps the proposal might be revised to reflect the utilization of smaller contracts and a participative approach to involve the IWRN/ISP/transboundary project focal points and in the process record/document their experiences for future GEF use.

Thank you for ensuring the linkages to IWLEARN, incorporating the Centers of Excellence idea, and ensuring that coastal/marine experiences with transboundary issues are included.

We look forward to this MSP testing how such mechanisms on one continent can be structured and hopefully leaving the revitalized IWRN in the position of incorporating transboundary water and related biodiversity issues into its operations by the end of the project.

AI

Response to GEF. Sec Review of 21 August 2002

As per GEF Sec's comments of 21 august 2002, the MSP proposal has been amended as follows:

- It now falls under OP10 as reflected on page one, and ten.
- The emphasis placed on the use of local expertise and local experienced entities including NGOs has been clarified as reflected in p22 (budget table), p23 (2nd para), p29 to 32 (breakdown budget). UNEP-OAS, as always the case with its other GEF-IW projects, will continue to favour local expertise thereby adhering strictly to the GEF principles.
- Although based on UNEP-OAS GEF IW experience in LAC, and taking advantage of the ISP, public participation has become an intrinsic part of all of our activities, the emphasis placed on participative approach has been further stressed out in p12 (last para), p13 (4th para), p14 (2nd&3rd bullet), p16 (component 4), p17 (last para), p22-23 (implementation plan), p25 (1st para).
- Finally the text has been slightly edited for enhanced clarity.