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## Caspian Day and Commission

By Hamid Ghaffarzadeh, Project Director,  
Caspian Sea

August 12<sup>th</sup> in the English calendar is named The Glorious Twelfth. This is the day that goose hunting season

starts. For the Caspian states and peoples the day is equally if not more glorious but for different reason; it is the day that the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea has formally entered into force, it is a day not just for hunting, but also a day to name the Caspian Day

In November 2003, Tehran hosted the signing ceremony of the Framework Convention. It was immediately called the Tehran Convention, hailed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, as "a significant step forward for the region". The Secretary-General congratulated the five countries for "sending a message to their people and to the world that multilateral cooperation for sustainable development is not only essential, but possible." He continued, that "once it has been ratified, this landmark treaty – which is the first legally binding agreement

## Saving Our Oceans From Our Shores

Coastal areas contribute to 95% of the world's harvest from marine fisheries. Coasts also play an important role in human sustenance, livelihoods, culture and recreation. Along seashores, a billion people now flourish.

Their land-based pollution – sewage, industrial waste, agricultural and urban runoff – has a growing detrimental impact on coastal waters. Nutrients from humans and our animals fertilize the sea. This disrupts complex relationships between organisms which sustain marine ecosystems. Pesticides and other toxic chemicals from our settlements often become more concentrated as they rise up through aquatic food chains. Increasingly toxic doses reach larger consumers, such as shorebirds, marine mammals and people. Parasites also make the journey from land to ocean then back again, along our beaches and in our food supply.

Some 80% of ocean pollution comes from the land. To address this threat directly, 108 governments and the European Commission launched the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) in 1995. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, nations further agreed "to achieve substantial progress" in protecting the ocean from land pollution before the next GPA Inter-governmental Review (IGR-2) this year.

October 16-20, 2006, nations re-assemble in Beijing for IGR-2. They aim to assess progress, share insights, and strengthen global implementation of the GPA over the next 5 years. GEF International Waters strategic partnerships are making substantive contributions to IGR-2 Partnerships Day (October 17). GEF affiliates from Black Sea/Danube, East Asian Seas, Caribbean

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*IW:LEARN aims to strengthen International Waters Management (IWM) by facilitating structured learning and information sharing among stakeholders.*

For more information:

<http://www.iwlearn.net>, Email: [info@iwlearn.org](mailto:info@iwlearn.org)

IW:LEARN, 1630 Connecticut Avenue NW #300, Washington, DC 20036

Phone: +1.202.518.2054, Fax: +1.202.387.4823



## Benguela Current Commission Foreseen by Year's End

*By Claire Attwood, Benguela Current LME Project*

The Benguela Current Commission (BCC) will be established by year end to facilitate the understanding, protection, conservation and sustainable use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME). An Interim Agreement has already been signed by Dr Abraham Iyambo, Namibian Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources; Mr Willem Konjore, Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism; Mr Erkki Nghimtina, Namibian Minister of Mines and Energy and Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk, South African minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The Interim Agreement is still to be signed by the Angolan Ministers of Fisheries and Urbanisation and Environment and the South African minister of Minerals and Energy. This is expected to take place before year-end.

The BCC is a formal institutional structure that will help Angola, Namibia and South Africa to implement an "ecosystem approach" to managing the BCLME. This means that, instead of managing living and non-living marine resources at the national level, the three countries will work together to tackle transboundary environmental issues such as pollution, the management of shared fish stocks and the coordination of regional efforts to mitigate the impacts of marine mining and oil and gas production on the environment.

The establishment of the BCC is the logical next step in a decade-long process of building trust and cooperation between the three countries of the Benguela. Marine scientists from Angola, Namibia and South Africa have been working together since 1995, when they began to share knowledge and understanding of the Benguela Current ecosystem through the regional science programme BENEFIT (Benguela Environment Fisheries Training Interactions Programme). More recently, scientists and fisheries managers have been working together through the BCLME Programme, a collaborative initiative that is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

"The signing of the Interim Agreement by the three Ministers will set in motion one of the world's first commissions based on the LME approach to ocean governance," says Dr Mick O'Toole, Chief Technical

## Pan-Africa Water Workshop Launches Regional Learning

GEF learning activities to assist African International Waters projects begins on October 30 to November 2, 2006. The series kicks off with the first Pan-African GEF IW workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by UNEP, and delivered by GEF IW:LEARN and the German capacity-building organization, InWent.

"The Participants are the Experts" is the motto of this knowledge-sharing workshop on Strengthening Transboundary Water Resources Management in Africa. GEF freshwater and marine project managers and their partners will come together to share practical experience with a first-ever opportunity to examine linkages between IWRM (Integrated Water Resource Management) approaches in transboundary freshwater systems and IC[Z]M (Integrated Coast[al Zone] Management) initiatives undertaken by countries working to sustain large marine ecosystems (LMEs). Participants will consult with each other in facilitated sessions and working groups, to establish objectives, exchange and discuss their own experience with common issues and challenges, and define outputs. This workshop provides a chance for GEF project leadership to define learning objectives for additional IW:LEARN activities in Africa during 2007 through 2008, including an IT workshop, another IWRM workshop, and a regional workshop on public participation.

Sub-regional breakout sessions are examining upstream/downstream linkages between surface freshwater, groundwater and marine systems, including shared aquifers, rivers and catchments. For countries sharing coastal waters, LME projects are informing and engaging freshwater projects. In thematic "buzz" sessions Africa's LME projects also expect to use this Pan-Africa workshop to prepare for an African LME networking meeting in Cape Town this November, and to explore replication of the process pioneered by the Benguela Current LME project in establishing a Benguela Current Commission.

African freshwater projects are also participating in another IW:LEARN workshop on the applying Economic Valuation to transboundary water resource decisions on November 6-8 in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso. EIER/ETSCHER is hosting, with IUCN and the World Bank Institute as co-organizers and GWP-West Africa as an additional partner. During the last GEF IW Conference in 2005, freshwater projects prioritized Economic Valuation as one of their top capacity-

## New GEF Project: Ningbo Water and Environment

How can GEF partners mitigate the impacts of land-based activities to reduce coastal and marine pollution through constructed wetlands? On June 29th, the World Bank Board of Directors approved the **The Ningbo Water and Environment Project (NWEP)** as the first project financed under the World Bank-GEF Strategic Partnership Investment Fund for Pollution Reduction in the Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) of East Asia.

East Asia's rapid economic growth has been accompanied by significant environmental degradation. The rapid population growth in coastal cities such as Ningbo, China, is making planning and financing for utility services such as water and wastewater very challenging. Advanced technologies for water and wastewater treatment are often applied without considering the financial or operational implications. Resulting under-utilization has the potential to undermine the performance and sustainability of the treatment plants.

Non-point source pollution from urban and agricultural run-off is a large and growing problem, and a significant contributor to marine pollution. Coastal wetlands provide natural purification for the run-off before it flows into the sea, as well as an important habitat for migratory birds and marine life. Knowledge of the important eco-system functions provided by wetlands is lacking throughout East Asia. There is a clear need to increase awareness and mobilize public opinion to preserve coastal habitats and reduce land-based sources of pollution.

In line with the Fund's overall objectives, the project's development objectives are: to reduce land-based pollution along the Cixi coast of China and the East China Sea, to promote the replication of innovative low cost wastewater treatment techniques, and to encourage coastal zone conservation.

Ningbo Project continued on page 8

## New Information Dissemination Tool for the Mediterranean Sea

How can stakeholders access a variety of information on the Mediterranean Sea and its GEF-supported Strategic Partnership (SP)? The project unveiled its new website this summer to address both topics. Administered by the SP's Information Regional Activity Center (INFO-RAC), The site aims to create a framework to replicate and transfer environmental investment experiences throughout the region. As such, the site is a key dissemination tool for the project and the basin it supports.

Along with **South China Sea**, the **Mediterranean SP** is among the first GEF IW projects to enhance its website with new web log, or "*blog*" tool. A blog is a web page where log entries are made in a journal or diary format, displayed in descending order from the most recent entry. Many blogs offer additional features, including images, and links to other pertinent blogs, web pages, video clips and other media. It is also possible for many people to contribute to a single blog on a particular topic. Like a related Web innovation, the Wiki (a type of site where many users can easily edit pages), blogs offer an excellent stakeholder-driven way of sharing knowledge and information resources.

The Mediterranean SP site also features access to regional newsletters, events, contacts, documents and basic information on Mediterranean Sea concerns, countries and project objectives.

As Paolo Guglielmi, Deputy Director of the INFO-RAC, says, "Our goal is give access to information to all the Mediterranean Countries, with particular consideration for those facing the southern side. Disseminating the contents and aims of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) represents a key step to collect opinions and proposals connected to the essential actions to be taken to save our environment as well as our culture."

To visit the site, go to [www.medsp.org](http://www.medsp.org). For more information on the website please contact Paolo Guglielmi, [pguglielmi@inforac.org](mailto:pguglielmi@inforac.org). For more on information on the Mediterranean Sea SP please contact Alex Lascaratos, [alex.lascaratos@unepmap.gr](mailto:alex.lascaratos@unepmap.gr) or Emilia Battaglini, [ebattaglini@worldbank.org](mailto:ebattaglini@worldbank.org)



Mediterranean project site front page  
--Photo courtesy medsp.org



#### Caspian Day continued from page 1

between all five nations that share the Caspian sea – will benefit the health and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people”.

On August 12, 2006, less than 3 years later, all riparian states which ratified the Convention re-met in Tehran to celebrate its entry into force. Ratification has been finalized in an almost record time, an indication of the keen interest of the riparian countries. Ratification has been timely and needed in view of the increasing threats to the environment of the Caspian Sea region, posed by sea level fluctuations, land based sources of pollution, over fishing, oil and gas exploration and extraction, and the introduction of invasive species. Given the challenges linked to understanding the threats and maximizing the potential for development of the region in a environmentally sound and sustainable way, ratification is a milestone in the history of the Caspian. Solution-oriented dialogue and cooperation is at the heart of this and a precondition for success. In force, the Tehran Convention offers a unique platform for making collective commitments and achieving real results.

The signing of the Tehran Convention represents real momentum in cooperation between the countries bordering the Caspian Sea. Its entry into force has opened the way for a first Ministerial meeting of the Conference of Parties, which can instruct and oversee environmental cooperation and stage actual improvements on the ground. Both the developers and the inhabitants of the Caspian Sea region should feel inspired to join and support the important work ahead. Protection of the environment of the Caspian Sea is essentially a task for the real owners, i.e., the riparian states and their people.

Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been instrumental in paving the way and facilitating the development of the Convention and in facilitating its signature and ratification. Through two major assistance projects to the Caspian region in 1999 and in 2004 GEF has provided close to \$15 million to the region through UNDP, World Bank and the UNEP. The funds have been utilized to set up an effective regional mechanism for dialogue, cooperation and coordination; to diagnose and analyze transboundary environmental issues and through a participatory process develop remedial strategies, policies and action at regional and national levels and also to assist towards mobilization of adequate national and international resources to implement the identified and agreed programmes and plans. GEF is proud to have helped create a regional institution equipped with adequate legal instruments and capacity to develop into a fully regionally owned

body which can protect the valueless Caspian Sea.

GEF has substantively helped to make the August 12th a glorious day for the Caspian.

For more information on the Caspian Sea Environment Project please contact Hamid Ghaffarzadeh, [hamid.ghaffarzadeh@undp.org](mailto:hamid.ghaffarzadeh@undp.org), or please visit [www.caspianenvironment.org](http://www.caspianenvironment.org).

## Experience Note: Lusophone Exchange

On October 10, 2005, the GEF-project, “**Fostering a Global Dialogue on Oceans, Coasts, and SIDS, and on Freshwater-Coastal-Marine Interlinkages**”, sponsored a workshop “The Seas of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP)” [Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and East Timor].

Held during the Ocean Policy Summit in Lisbon, Portugal, this workshop constituted a historic meeting of high-level representatives of CPLP member states for the first time discussed the sustainable management of oceans; jointly prioritized important issues in oceans management; and identified avenues for cross-national collaboration to address these issues. The participants drew up an action plan for enhanced cooperation among member states, including the holding of a workshop for high-level officials to raise awareness on oceans management in Brazil. This experience demonstrates that it is possible to have cooperative initiatives formed among developing nations as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues such as The Ocean Policy Summit. There is now strong sentiment among the participants to continue sharing information and to take action on the issues discussed and recommendations put forward regarding all aspects of the topics addressed, including areas on which further work is needed.

To sustain similar experiences requires a lead country with substantial interest and experience in the issues being addressed and resources to make things happen. This experience is important to GEF and to its transboundary water resources management initiatives for the valuable model it presents of South-South cooperation in a shared language on environmental issues.

For more information on the CPLP and the workshop, please contact Biliana Cicin-Sain, [bcsc@UDel.Edu](mailto:bcsc@UDel.Edu). To download the experience note, please visit [www.iwlearn.net/experience](http://www.iwlearn.net/experience).

## Advancing the WSSD Targets on Ecosystem Management and on Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management Through the GPA: Global Reporting and Case Studies

By Miriam Balgos, Global Oceans GEF Project

The UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA) is the only global mechanism explicitly addressing the linkages among freshwater, coastal, and marine environments. A major purpose of the GPA is to explicitly link the National Programmes of Action under GPA to other integrated coastal and ocean management initiatives and to integrated water resources management initiatives, and to forward the achievement of ecosystem approaches to meet the 2010 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) target.

The 2006 report by the **Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands** on the extent of implementation of the WSSD/MDG targets related to oceans, coasts, freshwater, and small island developing States *Meeting the Commitments on Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States Made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: How Well are We Doing?* (funded by the GEF and other partners) notes that:

1) National progress in implementing the WSSD/MDG goals on ecosystem management, and integrated coastal and ocean management is not being tracked systematically by any international entity. Such information is essential to assist nations in achieving the JPOI targets of applying ecosystem management by 2010 and in achieving integrated coastal and ocean management, which will be considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2014-2015.

2) With the WSSD and MDG mandates, nations are being asked to implement a variety of programs related to the ocean, coastal, and freshwater environments—integrated coastal and ocean management, ecosystem management, integrated water resources assessment,

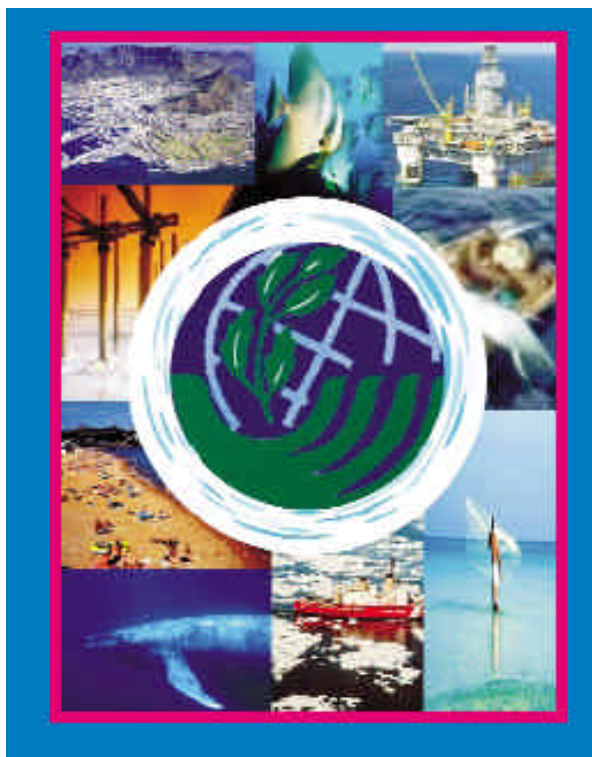
GPA and control of land-based activities, biodiversity protection and networks of marine protected areas. On the ground, these efforts address similar issues and cover, to some extent, similar areas. An important challenge is to assist nations in making explicit linkages among these often separate efforts to achieve ecosystem management “from hilltops to oceans.”

Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) programs and the Regional Seas Programme often play important roles in assisting nations in implementing ecosystem-based programs linking freshwater to oceans, and the lessons from these regional/national interactions also need to be gleaned.

This partnership will undertake the following activities:

1) Preparation of a global report on the status and trends in the implementation of policy initiatives in ecosystem management, and integrated coastal and ocean management, based on collaboration

with national authorities (on a voluntary basis), national experts, regional organizations, UN organizations, and other expert entities. This report will be featured at the 2008 Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands to be held on March 24 to 28, 2008. The conference will bring together experts from around the world to explicitly focus on the progress being achieved and obstacles faced in the implementation of ecosystem management and integrated coastal and ocean management. Following the Global Conference, the report will be revised to incorporate additional data and information gleaned from case studies presented at the conference, and



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will be issued in final form in early 2010, as a summary report on the fulfillment of the JPOI 2010 goal of achieving ecosystem management, and integrated coastal and ocean management.

2) This report will also include discussion of a parsimonious set of indicators which could be applied in subsequent global reports in the future.

3) Carry out selected in-depth case studies in various regions (Africa, Latin America, East Asia, and Pacific Islands) to understand the dynamics of on-the-ground linkages among efforts in: GPA National Programmes of Action (NPAs), integrated water resources management (IWRM), integrated coastal management (ICM, encompassing nearshore issues), EEZ management (encompassing the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone), and networks of marine protected areas, and regional/national linkages through the LME and Regional Seas programs. The studies will examine factors that facilitate and hinder on-the-ground implementation of an ecosystem approach to freshwater to oceans management, and suggest ways of overcoming obstacles and of fostering successful practices.

4) The global report and in-depth case studies will be prepared in collaboration with national authorities and experts from various regions of the world.

As the only global mechanism explicitly addressing linkages among coastal, marine, and freshwater environments, an important part of the GPA mandate is to assess the status and trends of such initiatives at the global level, to ascertain progress, obstacles, and possibly needed changes in direction.

The global-level reporting that will be carried out through this Partnership will identify varying patterns of implementation in different regions of the world, which will be useful in the further targeting of international assistance, support, and technical know-how to disseminate good practices in ecosystem-based integrated coastal and ocean management.

The in-depth case studies will reveal explicit factors which account for successful linkages among coastal, marine, and freshwater environments, and suggest best practices for consideration in other national contexts.

The **Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands** will be collaborating with entities around the world in the preparation of these assessments, including, among others: the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office;

the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO, the Global Environment Facility, Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the World Bank, Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; SEMARNAT Mexico; Ministry of Environment, Brazil; **PEMSEA** (East Asia); NEPAD (Africa); SOPAC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (Pacific Islands).

The Partnership, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the **Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands**, will prepare an initial global report on the status of integrated coastal and ocean management and of networks of marine protected areas based on the national reports submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2005-2006, and other relevant sources, for presentation at the IGR-2, during Partnerships Day, on October 17, 2006 (carried out as part of the Global Forum's GEF project). The Global Forum's 2006 report on *Meeting the Commitments on Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States Made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: How Well are We Doing?* (funded by the GEF and other partners) will also be disseminated as well as the summary results of the Nippon Foundation's Research Task Force on National Ocean Policies, and of the Lisbon Ocean Policy Summit (October 2005) (co-funded by the Nippon Foundation, the GEF, Government of Portugal, and others) addressing the experiences of integrated national ocean policies in 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones will be presented and reports disseminated.

The Partnership will hold a workshop on "Advancing JPOI Targets on Ecosystem Management and in Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management through the GPA: Global Reporting and Case Studies" during Partnerships Day at IGR-2.

For more information about this Partnership, please contact: Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain, Co-Chair and Head of Secretariat, "**Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands**" (+1.302.831.8086; Fax: +1.302.831.3668, [bcs@udel.edu](mailto:bcs@udel.edu))

## Call for Exchange Proposals

IW:LEARN continues to welcome proposals for inter-project stakeholder exchange missions. For more information on the program and to download applications, please visit [www.iwlearn.net/exchange](http://www.iwlearn.net/exchange).



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Advisor to the BCLME Programme. "It will also lead to the establishment of the various committees that make up the Benguela Current Commission."

The committees include:

- ◆ a Ministerial Conference, made up of a Minister from each of the three countries;
- ◆ a Management Board, comprising a delegation from each country;
- ◆ a Secretariat, comprising an Executive Secretary and a coordinator; and
- ◆ an Ecosystem Advisory Committee, consisting of experts nominated by each of the three countries.

The Ministerial Conference is the ultimate decision-making body of the BCC. The role of the Management Board is to promote a regional approach to the management of the BCLME. The Ecosystem Advisory Committee supports decision making by providing the

The first meeting of the management Board will be held within three months of the Interim Agreement entering into force. At that meeting, the Management Board will adopt rules and procedures for itself and determine the initial composition of the Ecosystem Advisory Committee.

For more information on the BCLME, please contact the project director, Mick O'Toole at [otoole@bclmenamibia.org](mailto:otoole@bclmenamibia.org) or visit [www.bclme.org](http://www.bclme.org). IW:LEARN is also sponsoring the drafting of an Experience Note to assess the formation of the BCC. The Note will help elucidate the lessons-learned stemming from the process itself. The Note will be published at [www.iwlearn.net/experience](http://www.iwlearn.net/experience) after approval, expected later this year. For more information on the BENEFIT programme, please visit [www.benefit.org.na](http://www.benefit.org.na).



*Ministers at BCC signing ceremony --Photo courtesy BCLME*

Management Board, the Ministerial Conference and each of the three countries with the best available scientific, management, legal and technical information. It also gives expert advice concerning the conservation and sustainable use and development of the BCLME. The Secretariat plays an administrative role.

The Interim Agreement will take effect once signed by the Angolan ministers of Fisheries, Urbanisation and Environment and Petroleum; the Namibian ministers of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Environment and Tourism and Mines and Energy; and the South African ministers of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

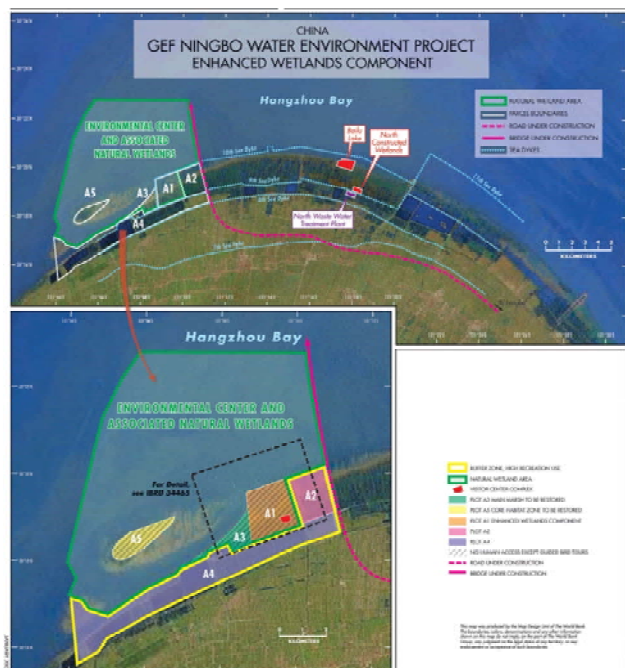
**Saving Oceans continued from page 1**

and Mediterranean basins are each sharing their GPA wisdom, transferable experiences and plans. Many GEF projects contribute to meeting GPA objectives. In fact, the GEF has provided about US\$200 million towards a total cost of \$1.5 billion for projects that contribute to the GPA.

As a co-organizer for Partnerships Day, the GEF IW:LEARN project will be moderating one GEF session and contributing to another on ocean training. IW:LEARN will also showcase its new GEF video, Turning the Tide:

Sustaining Earth's Large Marine Ecosystems, and disseminate its new Handbook on LME Governance and Socio-economics at a GEF International Waters exhibit. (The Handbook was published in partnership with the GPA Secretariat and UNEP Regional Seas Programme.)

For more information about the Global Plan of Action, including results from IGR-2, please contact the GPA Coordination Office via email ([gpa@unep.nl](mailto:gpa@unep.nl)) or visit its Web site (<http://www.gpa.unep.org>). For information on contributions of GEF IW projects to GPA, you may also contact Dann Sklarew at IW:LEARN ([dann@iwlearn.org](mailto:dann@iwlearn.org)).



Ningbo project layout --Photo courtesy World Bank

## Ningbo continued from page 3

With a GEF allocation of \$5 million, the NWEF project comprises three components, including:

1. Constructed Wetland for Tertiary Treatment of effluent from the Cixi Wastewater Treatment Plant (100,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d).
2. Development of a Wetland Center in the vicinity of the Ningbo-Shanghai Bridge (designated by Cixi City).
3. Engineering design and Management support.

Using a World Bank loan, Cixi City Government will invest \$128 million in the provision of wastewater collection and treatment services in the city, including for the construction of two wastewater treatment plants. The incremental GEF funding supplements this baseline with improved wastewater treatment through the constructed wetlands and preservation of enhanced wetlands for non-point source pollution treatment.

The Wetland Center effort includes a Visitor Center building, facilities for wetland education and research, and restoration and enhancement of degraded wetland and tidal mudflats. The Wetland Center covers an area of approximately 43.5 km<sup>2</sup> and includes various multipurpose plots: i) a recently reclaimed, nontidal land within the existing sea dike; ii) a tidal marshland; iii) a low lying island; and iv) a tidal mudflat/bay section covering approximately 36 km<sup>2</sup>. Additional plots will remain agricultural or low-density buffer areas. The project will contract an NGO-University Consortium to manage the Wetland Center, and also provide training and dissemination of NWEP experiences.

This project is one of the first constructed wetland

conservation projects in China. Its significance has been finding innovative, simplified and effective methods for wastewater treatment (i.e., multipurpose wetland) while at the same time building public support (i.e., by creating a visitor center) for pollution control and environmental conservation in the region. The approach has the potential to propagate in China and also serve as an example for other Asian countries.

For information on the NWEF project, please contact the Bank Task Team Leader, Greg Browder, [gbrowder@worldbank.org](mailto:gbrowder@worldbank.org). IW:LEARN's World Bank Partners have also drafted Experience notes covering lessons-learned in constructed wetlands and community acceptance in Albania and the Ningbo itself. Please visit [www.iwlearn.net/experience](http://www.iwlearn.net/experience) to review these.

## Pan-Africa Workshop continued from page 2

building issues, and is the topic of IUCN-facilitated e-dialogue with GEF IW freshwater projects in Africa to gather experiences from GEF IW projects and to introduce information materials to prepare for the workshop. All information materials are freely available to all participating in the IW:LEARN e-group for river basin managers, and will form a foundation for upcoming workshops.

IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) is IW:LEARN's partner facilitating a preparatory EV e-dialogue among African freshwater projects. Background materials and projects' experiences are available to all participants in IW:LEARN's e-forum for river basin managers. Future IW:LEARN learning activities will also build on this process: IUCN's Global Marine Program will coordinate a demand-driven workshop on Economic Valuation of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in 2007. WANI will also deliver needs-based workshops for freshwater projects in Latin America and Asia in 2007-2008. The Environmental Law Institute will also deliver regional workshops on participatory management of transboundary waters in 2006-2008.

World Bank Institute, UNEP, Global Water Partnership, and the NEPAD Coastal and Marine Secretariat in Nairobi also contributing substantive, planning and logistical support for these first regional workshops in Africa. Together, these are an inspiring token of the potential for improving technical and institutional cooperation in transboundary water resource management in Africa - and across the GEF International Waters community.

For more information on these IW:LEARN learning activities please contact Janot-Reine Mandler de Suarez, [janot@iwlearn.org](mailto:janot@iwlearn.org) or Dann Sklarew, [dann@iwlearn.org](mailto:dann@iwlearn.org).



## Upcoming Events

**12 Oct. 2006 - 15. Oct. 2006**

### **TRANSBOUNDARY SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE EVENT ON INTEGRATED SHARED LAKE BASIN MANAGEMENT - ATHENS/PETERSPERG PROCESS**

Ohrid, Macedonia

[www.watersee.net](http://www.watersee.net)

**16 Oct. 2006 - 18 Oct. 2006**

### **III APHW CONFERENCE ON WISE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Bangkok, Thailand

[www.thirdaphw.org](http://www.thirdaphw.org)

**16 Oct. 2006 - 20 Oct. 2006**

### **INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL MARINE ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM**

Cozumel, Mexico

[www.itmems.org](http://www.itmems.org)

**16 Oct. 2006 - 20 Oct. 2006**

### **SECOND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

Beijing, China

[www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/igr/igr2/](http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/igr/igr2/)

**06 Nov. 2006 - 08 Nov. 2006**

### **FRESHWATER ECONOMIC VALUATION WORKSHOP IN WEST AFRICA**

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

[www.iwlearn.net](http://www.iwlearn.net), [www.iucn.org/wani](http://www.iucn.org/wani)

**14 Nov. 2006 - 17 Nov. 2006**

### **THIRD FORUM OF THE GOOS REGIONAL ALLIANCES**

Cape Town, South Africa

[www.ioc-goos.org](http://www.ioc-goos.org)

**15 Nov. 2006 - 17 Nov. 2006**

### **SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION WORKSHOP**

Zagreb, Croatia

[www.savacommission.org](http://www.savacommission.org)

**06 Dec. 2006 - 09 Dec. 2006**

### **IW:LEARN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP**

Montevideo, Uruguay

[dann@iwlearn.org](mailto:dann@iwlearn.org), [troell@eli.org](mailto:troell@eli.org)

**12 Dec. 2006 - 16 Dec. 2006**

### **EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS**

Haikou City, Hainan Province, China

[www.pemsea.org/eascongress](http://www.pemsea.org/eascongress)

## Preview: Financing Events at the East Asian Seas Congress

Two World Bank East Asia Region Environmental and Social Development Sector Department (EASES) GEF seed money and Environment Department GEF Coordination Team (ENVGC) outreach budget co-sponsored workshops at the December EAS Congress offer the chance for the GEF IW portfolio to learn more about the two topics: revolving funds and public and private sector investment (PPI) in sewerage.

The PPI workshop will focus on (a) incentive frameworks, and (b) financing modalities. Outputs of the workshop will be an evaluation of how local government units and the private sector can be further engaged in the application of new and improved methods of financing water, sewerage and sanitation services, and the roles of national governments, international agencies and donors in such efforts.

The GEF Project Preparation Revolving Fund(s) (GEF-PPRF) workshop will aim to disseminate basic information about the GEF-PPRF (what it is, why it is needed, and how it would function?), solicit ideas, suggestions and comments from the audience, and establish a network of regional contacts for the consultative process leading to the establishment of the GEF-PPRF(s). The workshop will focus on two general lines of inquiry: Can the GEF-PPRF(s) increase the quantity and quality of project applications submitted to donors and can the GEF-PPRF(s) help the smaller clients access larger pools of capital with donors and other public-private financiers?

The urgent requirements in the EAS region for land-based pollution prevention and reduction facilities and services are well recognized. The mobilization of new and additional financial resources is an indispensable component of such initiatives. With the continuing decline in the volume of overseas development aid and the inability of countries to allocate sufficient portions of their gross domestic product to environmental protection, finding innovative ways to meet the financial shortfall to counter the ongoing degradation of marine and coastal resources in the East Asian Seas has become critical. The "incentive framework" segment will highlight cost recovery, regulations and institutional arrangements.

The East Asian Seas Congress (EASC) is due to be held in Hainan Island, China, from December 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. The Congress is a multi-themed platform to provide information exchange, dialogue and interaction between key players in sustainable ocean management.

For more information on these side events please contact Tracy Hart, [thart@worldbank.org](mailto:thart@worldbank.org).



## 2006 IW:LEARN ACTIVITIES PLANNED

### IW EVENTS

- ◆ Co-sponsor conference on Nutrient Pollution Control (October in Chisinau, Moldova; with GEF, Moldova Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry, UNDP and the World Bank)
- ◆ Strengthening African GEF Projects' Integrated Water Resources Management Workshop (October in Nairobi, Kenya; with GWP, INWENT, UNEP and WBI)
- ◆ Athens-Petersberg II Process - Southeastern European Lakes Management Roundtable (October in Ohrid, FYR Macedonia; with GWP-Med, World Bank, Greek and German governments)
- ◆ Economic Valuation and Watershed Decision-making Training (October in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; with EIER, GWP-Africa, IUCN-WANI, WBI)
- ◆ Coral Ecosystem Health Workshop (October in Cozumel, Mexico; with World Fish Center and World Bank)
- ◆ Information Management Workshop for GEF IW Projects (November in Nairobi, Kenya)
- ◆ Public Participation in Latin America IW Projects Workshop (December in Montevideo, Uruguay; with ELI, OAS and UNESCO)

### IW OUTREACH

- ◆ Premiere and distribute LME video documentary
- ◆ Publish at least fifteen IW Experience Notes
- ◆ Launch traveling Gender and Water Expo in Africa
- ◆ Continue to develop iwlearn.net

### IW EXCHANGES

- ◆ Conduct two to four inter-project exchanges

## 2006 3RD QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Side Event at GEF Assembly involving the dissemination of project outputs

## News from the IW Community

- ◆ Training Materials Developed by Meso-American Barrier Reef System GEF Project  
[www.mbrs.org.bz/english/docDB.htm#doc3?](http://www.mbrs.org.bz/english/docDB.htm#doc3?)
- ◆ New Handbook: Measuring the Progress and Outcomes of Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management  
[unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001473/147313e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001473/147313e.pdf)
- ◆ New Map: Guarani Aquifer project presented its base map to beneficiary countries on October 3rd, 2006.  
[www.sg-guarani.org](http://www.sg-guarani.org)
- ◆ New Model: South China Sea project created a Nutrient Carrying Capacity Model in Microsoft Excel to estimate impacts of nutrient loading scenarios from rivers on SCS nutrient status.  
[www.unepscs.org/nutrient\\_model/](http://www.unepscs.org/nutrient_model/)
- ◆ New Video: IW:LEARN-produced Turning the Tide: Sustaining Earth's Large Marine Ecosystems  
[www.iwlearn.net/lme](http://www.iwlearn.net/lme)
- ◆ New Book: Integrated Transboundary Water Management in Lake Peipsi  
[www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843390841](http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843390841)

## Call for Articles and Letters to the Editor

IW:Bridges depends on article and letter submissions from the GEF IW community. Send article proposals and announcements to [mish@iwlearn.org](mailto:mish@iwlearn.org). We are particularly interested in stories of lessons learned, challenges overcome, and milestones in IW project implementation.

*IW:LEARN aims to strengthen International Waters Management (IWM) by facilitating structured learning and information sharing among stakeholders.*  
For more information:

<http://www.iwlearn.net>, Email: [info@iwlearn.org](mailto:info@iwlearn.org)  
IW:LEARN, 1630 Connecticut Avenue NW #300, Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: +1.202.518.2054, Fax: +1.202.387.4823,





## DNIPRO Basin Environment Programme launches new website built on IW:LEARN website toolkit



*Lesia Dronova is the projects coordinator for the DNIPRO Basin Environment Programme. She has been involved in the development of the new site from it's initial stage. Now that project is launching their new bilingual website built on IW:LEARN website Toolkit, Lesia shares her experiences with IW project community on the new toolkit.*



**Anonymous users view of the Dnipro website**  
The main features of the website includes fully functional bilingual contents, live search facility, breadcrumb, online reports repository, easily manageable variety of web contents and lots more..  
URL: <http://dnipro.iwlearn.org>

### Overview

The Dnipro Basin Environment Programme is a self-standing UNDP-GEF regional project designed to develop a programme of measures and their implementation mechanisms aimed to sustainably protect the transboundary Dnipro River on the territory of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

The project has worked on a new website that is built upon IW:LEARN website toolkit. This new site is fully bilingual in English and Russian languages.

**Q: How did you learn about the IW:LEARN toolkit?**

A: The Dnipro Programme is part of the UNDP-GEF International Waters section. Having had problems with our web-site modification we applied to IW:LEARN (Dann Sklarew) with a request for assistance and bringing it up to existing standards for all IW project web-sites. As a result, we were connected to UNEP information technology specialists who created the design, completed the English part of the web-site and familiarized us with features of the IW:LEARN toolkit for its further use.

**Q: How long have you used the IW:LEARN toolkit?**

A: Since January 2006.

**Q: How have you benefited from using it?**

A: The toolkit provides us direct access to our web-site with the options of making changes and additions ourselves in the easiest way.

**Q: Are there any features that you were particularly impressed with?**

A: The IW:LEARN toolkit is very user friendly. We can make modifications and add new information without being programmers or website specialists.

Also I would like to give credit and thanks to IW:LEARN – UNEP application designers for their exceptional attention and assistance to our website requirements.

Continued on page 2

IW:LEARN aims to strengthen International Waters Management (IWM) by facilitating structured learning and information sharing among stakeholders.

For more information:

<http://www.iwlearn.net>, Email: [iwlearn@unep.org](mailto:iwlearn@unep.org)

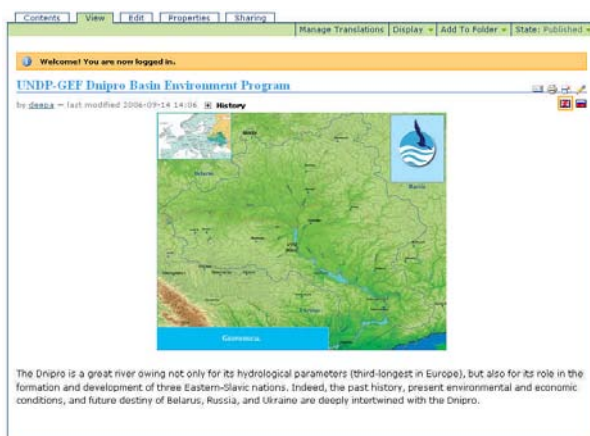
UNEP Division of GEF Co-ordination, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya

Phone: +254.20.762.3271, Fax: +254.20.762.4041





Continued from page 2



### DNIPRO website view for site administrator

Upon login into the site, depending on the user rights they are presented with various options/ utilities for working with contents. The above is the site administrator's view of the website homepage. There are very easy to use menus to allow users to add, modify, upload, delete, cut or paste various contents. The smiley icon points some key areas; You will find some images next to show functions of these key features.

**Q: What challenges (if any) did you encounter while using the toolkit?**

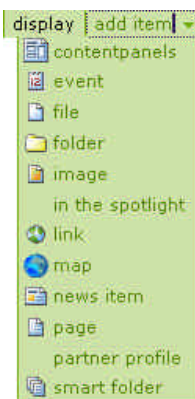
A: The Dnipro Program website is focused on and for the beneficiary countries - Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Russian has been chosen as the common language for the Program. That's why the website needs to function in two languages – Russian and English; moreover, the Russian language is the dominant one.

One of the challenges was that although the website toolkit supports over 50 international languages, the IW:LEARN team can only work with the English content due to lack of knowledge of Russian language. Hence we had to contract a Ukrainian firm to translate and fill out the Russian version of the Dnipro site.

**Q: What would you say is the most outstanding feature of the toolkit?**

A: 1. The toolkit provides the possibility for all International Water projects to create their websites using the same joint principles and standards.

2. The toolkit is very user friendly. Any user even a non IT specialist can quickly learn how to use it.



**Q: Did you learn anything new from using the toolkit?**

A: The toolkit provides us direct access to our website with the options of making changes and additions ourselves in the easiest way.

**Q: Are there any features that you were particularly impressed with?**

A: The IW:LEARN toolkit is very user friendly. We can make modifications and add new information without being programmers or website specialists.

Also I would like to give credit and thanks to IW:LEARN



– UNEP application designers for their exceptional attention and assistance to our website requirements.

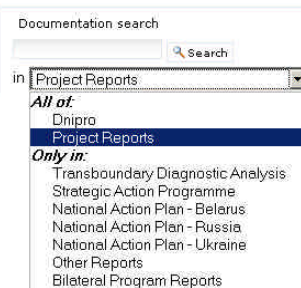
The **contents area** shows types of content stored on the website portal. It provides a very user friendly interface for the administrator to easily add, cut, paste, rename, rearrange and/or change state of contents.



The **edit tab** depending on content types provides a very easy word like editors with simple fields to add, update or modify data to your content. I.e. design home page..

One can also add various content types depending on need of the site using a simple drop down list.

Toolkit also comes with many add on contents types and products to use.



For website toolkit users like DNIPRO and many other projects, UNEP IW:LEARN has organized a Website Toolkit Training Workshop in Mombasa- Kenya on the 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006. For more information read on URL: [http://www.iwlearn.net/abt\\_iwlearn/events/nov2006-1](http://www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/events/nov2006-1)