



GEF/UNDP Good Practices and Portfolio Learning in Transboundary Freshwater and Marine Legal and Institutional Frameworks

The international community needs to start conceiving strategies for using water more efficiently and sharing it more freely, says UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, warning that unless action is taken soon, the problems caused by water shortages around the world will only multiply.
World Water Day 2008

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**GEF/UNDP
International
Waters Project**

★ ***Mediterranean Sea Global Program for Action Protocol
Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Systems Project
South China Sea Large Marine Ecosystem***

GEF/UNDP

This is a three year, multi-million dollar project to foster good governance and effective decision-making in integrated transboundary water resources management (TWRM). For both freshwater and marine environments, the project will identify, collect, analyze, adapt and replicate beneficial practices from existing legal and other institutional frameworks. The objectives are to strengthen and promote multi-country cooperation, and to enhance sustainable development through ecosystem-based water governance and adaptive management regimes. This will increase economic and environmental benefits to countries sharing water resources, and assist them in meeting the challenges of global climate change. South-South collaboration is a key focus of all activities.

The project has three components.

1. Identify and analyze beneficial legal and institutional practices in TWRM, in order to increase the understanding and knowledge of the frameworks necessary for conservation, good governance and wise decision-making.

INTERNATIONAL

A major objective of this component is promoting facilitated exchanges and encouraging learning partnerships. A South-South Peer Review Group (S-SPRG) will be established, and regional learning networks will incorporate local objectives for capacity building. Up to 25 transboundary water systems will be investigated to provide depth and breadth for study (see map).

2. Develop and validate new experiential learning tools and replication guides, in order to establish a cohort of local experts to enable on-going delivery. Tools will include case studies, negotiation tips, role-play simulation exercises and interactive DVDs. Water governance tools and guides will be developed in close collaboration with S-SPRG, regional partners and local experts. While designed for building capacity of professional practitioners, outputs also will be appropriate for university settings.

3. Deliver and continually refine tools through trial programs involving at least 60 GEF TWRM practitioners, in order to consistently improve usefulness.

WATERS PROJECT

This will create a cadre of local experts, throughout all GEF regions, that will be available to carry the outcomes of the project forward beyond the grant's termination. Regional programs, conducted with local experts delivering project outcomes to local practitioners, will create enhanced collaboration, increased effectiveness in decision-making and greater engagement of civil society and other interest groups. This should result in wiser use of water resources among all stakeholders.

In sum, the project aims to foster increased introduction and replication of good practices through dialogue among TWRM practitioners. It will encourage and build on South-South learning experiences and its S-SPRG will facilitate on-going exchange of innovative ideas and practical solutions. While the project's expert team and staff have excellent credentials and many years of experience worldwide, a steady flow of insight and contributions from partners in the field will be essential to accomplishing these objectives.

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