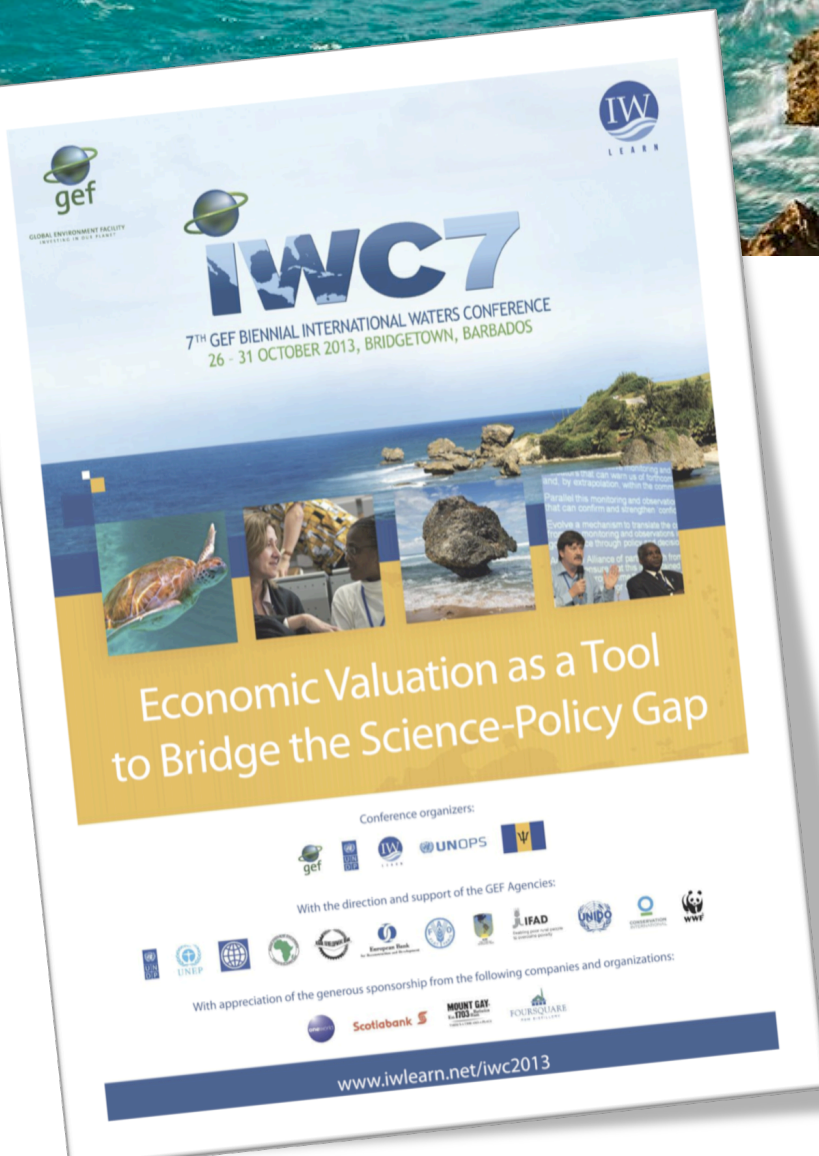




7TH GEF BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL WATERS CONFERENCE
26-31 OCTOBER 2013, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

Conference Report



Introduction

Every two years, the Global Environment Facility's International Waters portfolio comes together to plan, deliberate, share information and build capacity in key management and technical areas within the GEF focal area to protect and manage the world's freshwater, groundwater and Large Marine Ecosystems.

The GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (IWC) is the signature learning event for the GEF IW portfolio. It is both a training ground—with plenaries, working groups, a project results exhibition space, workshops and other learning modalities—and a unique meeting of stakeholders to review how the IW portfolio, comprising 242 projects to date and some US\$1.4 billion of GEF grants invested in 149 different countries and approximately US\$8.4 billion in co-financing, is addressing transboundary water management challenges globally.

Quick Links:

- [IWC7 Conference Programme](#)
- [IWC7 Website](#)
- [IWC7 Reflection Videos](#)

The seventh GEF IW portfolio-wide learning event (IWC7), 26-31 October 2013 in Barbados, convened about 215 invited participants from 73 countries and 56 GEF IW projects, including GEF IW project managers, representatives of beneficiary countries, non-governmental organizations, transboundary management institutions, UN agencies and the private sector.

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Barbados was selected to host the IWC7 in part to highlight the threats posed to especially vulnerable SIDS' water security on account of rising sea levels and saline intrusion of coastal aquifers, rainfall variability and reduced catchment recharge, and increased frequency of natural disasters. Conference participants took part in one of three technical site visit tours around the island that showcased Barbados' water management approaches to land-use planning, coastal risk reduction and groundwater protection.

The overarching theme of the conference was *Economic Valuation as a Tool to Bridge the Science-Policy Gap*. Economic valuation promises to help bridge the gap between science and policymaking by communicating the importance of ecosystems in terms of their economic worth to a variety of sectors. While the GEF IW portfolio historically has made use of economic valuation, the tool has not been used in a systematic or widespread manner. The IWC7 put special emphasis on reviewing the economic valuation of international waters and the links between economic valuation and science, as well as mechanisms for linking both to policymaking. The pre-conference targeted workshop aimed to determine how best to incorporate economic valuation into future GEF IW project implementation, such as how to include methodologies in the formulation of a transboundary diagnostic analysis and how to better translate scientific findings into policy development. Results from participant small table dialogues during the conference itself, indicate that economic valuation is a useful tool that can support improved decision-making and guide institutional framework development; influence allocation of financial resources and investments; raise awareness of various impacts in shared water systems; and ultimately lead to better governance of transboundary waters.

In addition to the central discussion on economic valuation, other conference sessions focused on portfolio-wide learning and experience sharing over a wide range of topics, inter alia from replicating good management practices from the Wider Caribbean to catalyzing finance for sustainable management of transboundary basins through partnerships and using data visualization as a tool for project implementation.

This Conference Report summarizes the IWC7's discussion, results and key messages for the portfolio. This reporting is largely based on breakout summaries, presentations and the key messages generated by session coordinators.

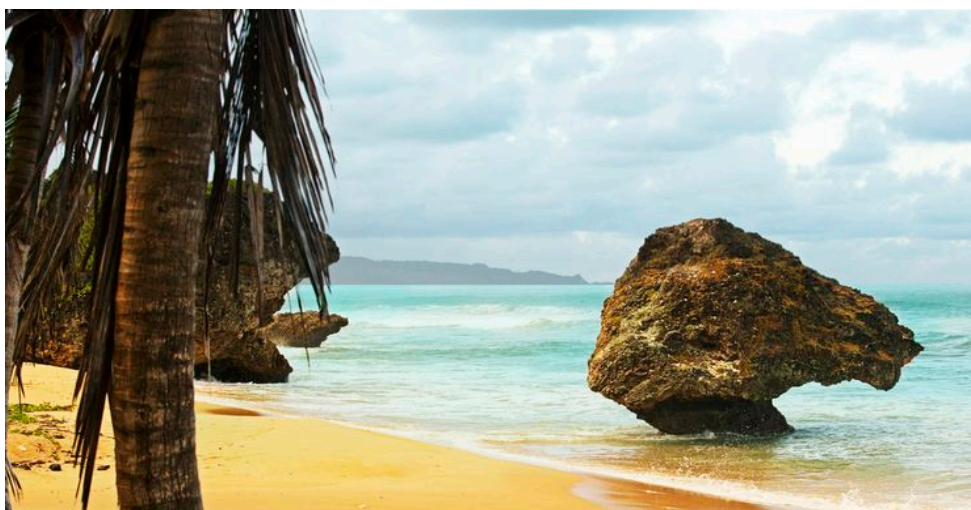


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Conference Objectives and Results Framework

The objectives of the IWC7 were to share experiences and good practices among GEF IW projects; build capacity in key International Waters management and technical areas; review work undertaken to date on economic valuation of international waters ecosystems; identify methods for improving assessments and valuations of transboundary ecosystems; identify methods to improve linkages between both science and valuation to policymaking; and develop a roadmap for improved collaboration between private sector companies and GEF international waters projects.

Design Summary	Performance Targets and/or Indicators	Data Sources and/or Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks	Evaluation
Outcomes				
Good practices and successful approaches/results are identified and replicated leading to improved project performance	New GEF IW project designs include elements of economic valuation	Applicability documented in participant evaluations and session reports; new project documents	Good practices can be identified from the current IW project portfolio	<p>Several participants indicated in the conference evaluation that they plan to include economic valuation as part of their project's implementation and/or future design</p> <p>Participants indicated the conference was somewhat applicable to their work functions (3.97 out of 5.0)</p> <p>40-plus Personal Action Plans completed. These PAPs reflected economic valuation goals, support needs and follow-up plans</p>
Active IW projects learn to apply evolving GEF policies, procedures, and results-based management to project implementation	Active GEF IW projects apply policies and procedures for results-based management	New work plans or revised results frameworks; new experience notes	<p>Good practices and successful approaches to IW projects may not have universal application and could be inappropriately applied in the wrong content</p> <p>IW project managers and participants actively seek opportunities to apply evolving GEF policies, procedures, and good practices to their projects</p> <p>Assume 75% of current IW projects attend IWC7</p> <p>Increased knowledge is not incorporated into ongoing projects as strategies and work plans are already fixed</p>	<p>Nearly all participants that completed an evaluation (28.3%) indicated that they gained applicable knowledge through the conference</p> <p>56 projects attended IWC7 (about 65% of the active project portfolio)</p>

Design Summary	Performance Targets and/or Indicators	Data Sources and/or Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks	Evaluation
Projects gain a basic understanding of economic valuation methods for incorporation in existing activities and where relevant, to respective TDA/SAP processes	New GEF IW project designs include elements of economic valuation, 50% of new TDA's or SAP's (or other decision-making mechanism) include considerations of the economic valuation	Final report after IWC7 includes guidance on incorporating good practices and successful approaches; New project documents, experience notes, TDAs	See above	Over 20 presentations on economic valuation and its derivative topics Participants indicated the IWC7 increased their understanding of economic valuation (3.49 out of 5.0)
Experiences and good practices shared among GEF IW projects	GEF IW projects present at IWC7 share at least one of their top innovations and/or replicable experiences at IWC7.	Presentations from IW portfolio in targeted workshops and workshop sessions; background documentation, and innovation marketplace exhibits/posters	Not all participating projects produce exhibits or posters	46/56 projects (82%) presented at least one result in plenary, workshop or at the Innovation Marketplace
Outputs				
Economic valuation approaches employed by the portfolio identified and shared	A list of at least three different economic valuation examples identified and shared during the pre-conference workshop	Reports from small table dialogue sessions and pre-conference workshop; presentations		Three case studies on economic valuation (EV) presented or discussed in Workshop (Guinea Current, Caribbean Sea and Benguela Current). In addition, 28 uses of EV identified; 35 difficulties of EV identified; 34 ways identified to improve use of EV for policymaking
New mechanisms discussed for greater private sector involvement and public-private partnerships in future GEF IW projects	At least five projects approach the private sector, or are approached by the private sector, to partner in the implementation of a current or future project	Documentary evidence from PIRs and other project reporting/news	Assume that private sector participants are convinced of the value of working in public-private partnerships in future GEF IW projects	Several projects and at least five private enterprises (including FEMSA, Carlsberg, Anheuser Busch, IBM, World Ocean Council and CEO Water Mandate) attended a "private sector cocktail" event, as well as a plenary roundtable on financing sustainable management of international waters. e.g., Anheuser Busch InBev

Design Summary	Performance Targets and/or Indicators	Data Sources and/or Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks	Evaluation
				and the Puyango project (PPG Phase) discussed partnering in the future on project implementation
IW portfolio learning needs captured for improving GEF IW:LEARN and other portfolio learning project services	List of emerging learning priorities	Rapporteur summaries; expressions of interest for project-project twinning exchanges, regional and thematic workshops to continue and improve IW learning post-IWC7	Assume that IW projects a value central clearinghouse of information through IW:LEARN to service their learning requirements	<p>IW:LEARN should:</p> <p>Better integrate the IW:LEARN website with the most commonly used IT platforms (email, Facebook, Twitter)</p> <p>Increase outreach and better communicate and visualize results</p> <p>Try to cover less activities and therefore enable time to spend on the 'core' activities supporting projects in sharing experiences</p> <p>Provide additional support regarding project website development</p> <p>Conduct more workshops on groundwater transboundary issues</p>



Economic Valuation as a Tool to Bridge the Science-Policy Gap

PRE-CONFERENCE TARGETED WORKSHOP

Economic valuation promises to help bridge the gap between science and policymaking by communicating the importance of ecosystems in terms of their economic worth to a variety of sectors. While the GEF IW portfolio historically has made use of economic valuation studies (in the Guinea Current and Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem projects, for example), the tool has not been applied in a systematic or widespread manner. The IWC7 saw special emphasis on reviewing the economic valuation of international waters and the links between economic valuation and science, as well as mechanisms for linking both to policymaking. The pre-conference targeted workshop aimed to determine how best to incorporate economic valuation into future GEF IW project implementation, such as how to include methodologies in the formulation of a transboundary diagnostic analysis and how to better translate scientific findings into policy development. Results from participant small table dialogues during the conference itself, indicate that economic valuation is a useful tool that can support improved decision-making and guide institutional framework development; influence allocation of financial resources and investments; raise awareness of various impacts in shared water systems; and ultimately lead to better governance of transboundary waters.

The objectives of this pre-conference targeted workshop were to convey economic valuation and share examples of both successfully and unsuccessfully applied methodologies from within and beyond the GEF IW portfolio, and identify methods to improve linkages between valuation and policymaking through the TDA-SAP process.

General Key Messages

- ◆ **International waters decision making needs to be based on a consideration of a variety of socioeconomic factors**, such as: economic growth needs and related investments; livelihoods and distributional issues; costs and benefits of specific policy decisions; and how a policy decision influences the functioning of ecosystem services.
- ◆ Economic valuation has a specific role to play within the different steps of the policy cycle (analysis and advice, decision-making, implementation, review and evaluation, and monitoring)
- ◆ **Economic Valuation Methods:**
 - There are several approaches and methods to economic valuation. Managers have many options, but: **“you need to first be clear on what question you want to answer”** (e.g. are we determining the total flow of benefits of a large marine ecosystem, the net benefits of interventions that alter river conditions, how the cost and benefits of ecosystems are distributed or potential financing sources for conservation?)
 - Economic valuation is very case specific. **There is no silver bullet. Method selection should be “purpose-driven, objective, and specific”** (what question, policy sector, stakeholders, scale, timeline, data available?)
- ◆ **Key insights on successfully linking economic valuation to policymaking:**
 - Economic valuation is only one tool to support better decision-making
 - Perform the economic valuation at the scale of the policy question
 - Strong local partnership and stakeholder engagement is necessary (e.g. to train local experts and/or raise awareness at regional and country levels)
 - Make sure there is local demand for economic valuation
 - Effective communication and access to decision makers is necessary
 - The economic valuation study should present clear methods, assumptions and limitations
- ◆ **Economic valuation of ecosystem services can be better integrated in the official TDA-SAP Methodology**
 - Pilot projects should be selected during the SAP implementation phase based in part on findings of the economic valuation study
 - The GEF should develop a practical manual, specific to the management of GEF IW projects, on how to integrate economic valuation approaches in the TDA-SAP Process
 - A cost-benefit analysis (using total economic values and costs) of SAP options should be performed
 - Data access and availability should be improved to enhance indicator assessment for the TDA-SAP process
 - Economic valuation should be included in National Action Plans

Key Messages for Implementation (Linking Valuation to Policymaking)

GEF Action Points

- ◆ **Develop guidance for the use of socioeconomic assessments, especially ecosystem services valuation**
 - Develop a practical manual on how to mainstream economic valuation in project implementation, particularly through the TDA/SAP process.
 - Develop a clear framework and economic valuation guidelines for project managers on what is most useful for their projects
 - Show the needs for socioeconomic assessments/cost-benefit analysis (CBA) and the specific use of ecosystem services valuation
 - Use of specific methods considering valuation data availability (be flexible as not all methods are suited to all projects)
 - Make success stories and lessons learned available (evidence of approach advocacy)
 - Improve data availability/accessibility for ecosystem services valuation (“do it quicker and easier”)
- ◆ **Support capacity building**
 - Improve capacity (within GEF-projects, but also of users/authorities)
 - Create a critical mass of expertise: professionalization/community of practice
 - Support a stronger incorporation of decision makers and stakeholders on the ecosystem services valuation process.
- ◆ **Foster the practical application of ecosystem services valuation at the project level**
 - Conduct high-level ecosystem valuation studies (“fast and cheap”) to kick start acceptance and understanding
 - Improve “buy-in” by users/authorities through involvement and awareness-raising
 - Clarify which indicators are most relevant for the economic valuation and how they “fit into” the valuation assessment/work
- ◆ **Incorporate valuation as an integral part of the TDA-SAP framework and related documents**
 - Foster socioeconomic indicator use. Further develop socioeconomic indicators (linked to data access and availability) and baseline/trends in GEF project and SAP results frameworks
 - Use Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) and Multi-criteria analysis (quantitative and qualitative information) in the assessment of options throughout the valuation process (not only toward the end)
 - Economic valuation complements – it does not replace – other data and analysis currently used in GEF-projects
 - Use an ecosystem diagnostic analysis (including valuation) to identify national and regional key issues: for each member country (communication issues, collecting information/data) undertake an individual valuation and then bring together into the TDA-SAP process
 - Causal chain analysis (including valuation) may be useful earlier in designing the process (in assessment of options)

I. Recognizing and Reconciling Multiple Uses of Ecosystem Services: Ecosystem Approaches to Management of Aquatic Resources

The first substantive session’s objectives were to provide an introduction to the ecosystem approach—rationale, principles and planning; and to highlight the challenges of reconciling the different objectives of multiple stakeholders and multiple sectors that are competing for limited resources, and the importance of objective information on costs, benefits and values to assist planning and decision-making.

The ecosystem approach was introduced. It is “a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. It is focused on levels of biological organization, which encompasses the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems.”

Quick Link:

- [Introduction to the Ecosystem Services Approach as a Framework for Management of Ecosystem Use and Maintenance of Ecosystem Services](#)

In breakout groups, conference participants took part in a practical exercise with the objective to use a structured approach to undertake a preliminary, qualitative assessment of the benefits and services being obtained from a sector and the impacts that sector is having, or is likely to have, on the ecosystem and on other sectors operating in the same ecosystem. This exercise highlighted the inevitable need for managers to make compromises, or trade-offs, between different users and objectives and the importance of having good information on the benefits and costs that will have to be considered in making those trade-off decisions. This exercise set the scene for the more in-depth considerations of economic valuation that followed. The outcomes of the exercise and some potential applications can be viewed [here](#).



II: Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services

This session aimed to provide a framework to comprehensively evaluate natural and environmental resources; present various methods to assess the value of ecosystems to human well-being, as well as examples from marine and freshwater ecosystems to illustrate the different concepts and methods of valuing ecosystem services; present a practical example of performing a valuation; and describe the methodology used in performing a valuation, and data gaps and uncertainties that may be present.

An introductory presentation made note that if one does not value ecosystems when making decisions on allocating land, water and marine resources and investment funds, there is an increased probability of economic damage.

In the past, ecosystem values, or the benefits of ecosystem services, have been almost ignored in IW decision-making. This is so because markets often fail to assign an economic value to the public benefits of ecosystem services. Instead, markets attribute value to private goods and services, where production may lead to ecosystem damage.

Economic valuation of ecosystems assesses both the immediate economic gains (benefits) of ecosystems, such as raw materials, food, and clean water (provisioning services or “direct and indirect use values”) and the benefits that are difficult to evaluate in monetary terms, such as landscape beauty, optional use for future generations, and existence of biodiversity (optional values and non-use values). (See chart below for examples of direct, indirect, optional and non-use values).

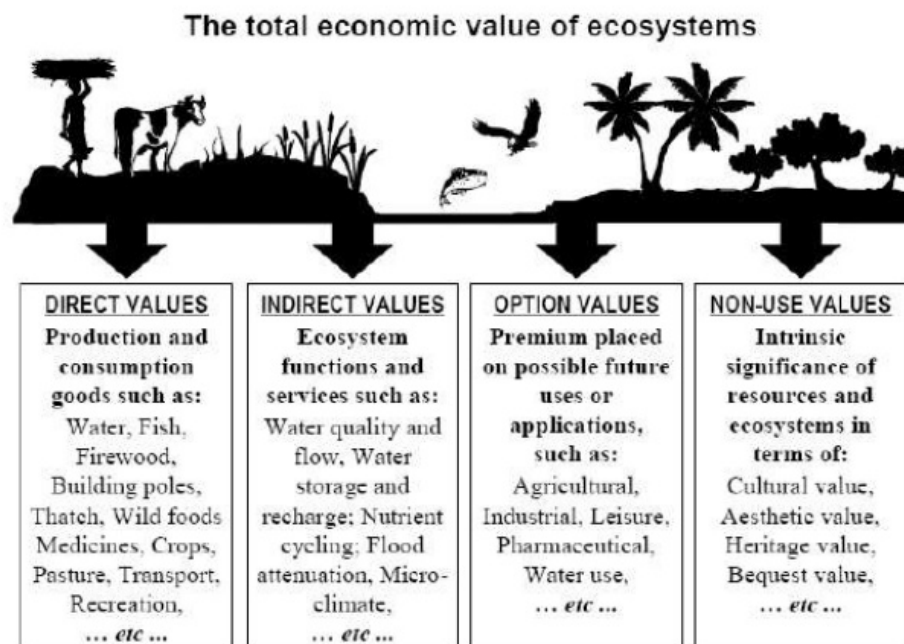


Figure 2: The total economic value of ecosystems (source: Emerton, 2005)

A variety of socioeconomic factors need to be considered when making policy decisions. These factors include economic growth needs and related investments, livelihood and distributional aspects, costs and benefits of specific policy decisions, and cost-benefit and multi-criteria analysis. A further consideration is the way a decision influences the functioning of ecosystem services and related values.

Valuation for ecosystem services can help address human well-being and ecosystem services; trade-offs between ecosystem services; conservation and other priorities; a reduction of uncertainty (decision-making is often based on estimates, scenarios and incomplete knowledge. Valuation is an additional factor in the attempt to gain the most complete picture); and evaluate interactions of ecosystem services with other determinants of human well-being.

Generally, economic valuation of ecosystem services assesses the value derived from the existence and functioning of the relevant ecosystems. It is important to not wait until all information is available (it never will be) – start with what is there, clearly indicating limitations and assumptions, as well as future work needed. “Just Do It” studies for the Canary Current LME and Guinea Current LME present practical examples for the portfolio on methodologies for first rough estimations of value for social welfare and economic growth.

This session also provided an overview of the key methodologies for valuing ecosystem services, including market prices, damage avoided/replacement costs, contingent valuation and benefit transfers. If one does a more detailed/specific study for a “hotspot”/specific issue, then other methods also become relevant, such as travel cost and choice experiments.

The **market prices method** is applicable to direct use values. The value is an estimate from the price in commercial markets. Constraints for this method are market imperfections, such as subsidies and lack of transparency, which distort the market.

The **damage avoided/replacement costs method** is applicable to indirect use values (e.g. coastal protection, erosion, pollution control, water retention). These values are estimated by calculating the costs that would occur for building

Quick Link:

- [The Role of Valuation of Ecosystem Services for Decision-Making and Methods of Economic Valuation](#)
- [The Economic and Social Value of the Guinea Current Ecosystem - A First Approximation](#)
- [Benguela LME Economic Study](#)

necessary infrastructure to replace the service (e.g. treatment plants), or by calculating the estimated damage of a hazardous event (e.g. a storm). The main constraint for this method is the assumption that the cost of avoided damage or substitutes matches the original benefit: external circumstances may change the value of the original expected benefit, leading to under or over-estimates. It is therefore important to use this method with caution.

The **contingent valuation method**, or “stated-preference method” is applicable to tourism and non-use values. It is one of the few ways to assign monetary values to non-use values of ecosystems that do not involve market purchases. This method involves asking people directly how much they would be willing to pay for specific environmental services—often the only way to estimate non-use values. Problematically, there are various sources of possible bias in interview techniques. Would people actually pay the amounts they indicate they would in an interview?

The **benefit transfers method** involves a transfer of valuation results from a specific “study site” to a different “policy site”. This allows for cost and labor efficiency (if there are no resources available for independent surveys) and compensates, partly, fragmentary data availability. There are a great number of uncertainties/inaccuracies with this method: situations are never identical; there is dependability on the quality of the study site work; and unit values can quickly become outdated. Nevertheless, this method is often the best and only solution at hand, since there is a lack of data and specific studies available. It is important for first, rough estimations.

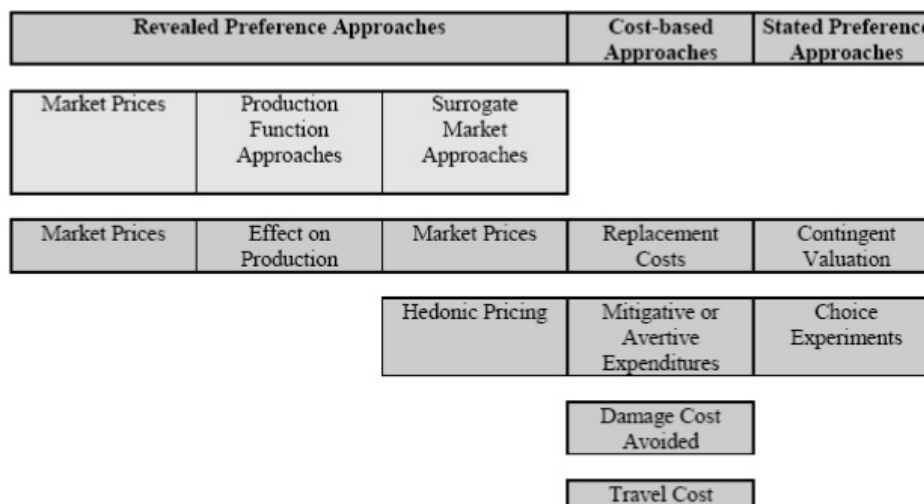
It is often not possible to make detailed decisions on how an LME or river basin needs to be developed and where to focus a project. But it is possible to understand which ecosystems have been underestimated in the past with regard to their social and economic benefits. It is also possible to understand those activities (which at first blush appear to be economically profitable) that provoke not only environmental damage, but also cause significant economic loss. A first valuation exercise will help to identify explicit and hidden trade-offs in the use of ecosystem services and other economic activities, and ultimately support decision-making.

Progress in the practical application and use of results in natural resource planning and decision-making has been slow because practical integration of such valuation studies is a complex process, combined with a general lack of understanding regarding the importance of ecosystem services. Various methodological issues for the valuation of mostly non-market benefits jeopardizes the credibility and trust of this work, and studies often end up being “desktop”, that is, they have little participation and ownership.

Moving forward, it is important to aim for quality and ownership, with less quantitative and more qualitative results.

Workshop participants were provided with two practical examples of performing an economic valuation, *Valuation of Marine Ecosystem Goods and Services in the Caribbean*, and *Applications of Economic Valuation in the Sourou River Basin (Volta Basin)*

Methodologies for valuing ES:



IWC7: pre-workshop on economic valuation, Bridgetown, 26-27 Oct 2013

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Quick Links:

Practical Examples of Economic Valuation

- [Valuation of Marine Ecosystem Goods and Services in the Caribbean: A Review and Framework for Future Work](#)
- [Applications of Economic Valuation in the Sourou River Basin \(Volta Basin\)](#)



In breakout groups, workshop participants deliberated on the uses and difficulties of economic valuation of ecosystem services for decision-making. The results from this breakout exercise are summarized as follows:

1. What are the main uses of economic valuation of ecosystem services for decision-making?

- Awareness and communication
- Supporting improved decision-making
- Recognizing different ecosystem services values
- Showing choices of management, including tradeoffs
- To influence policy and regulatory frameworks
- To influence decision-making about allocation of financial resources and on competing uses by internalizing externalities into cost-benefit analysis
- Short-term and long-term planning for sustainability
- To integrate the total economic value of ecosystem services into decision-making
- To leverage resources for the sustainable use and protection of natural resources/ecosystems

2. What methods seem most appropriate and useable?

- Method selection should be purpose-driven, objective and specific: what stakeholder/sector, policy, scale, and timeline?
- Should be “quick and rough” for overall scale, more detailed for specific issues

3. What are the main difficulties in increasing the use of economic valuation of ecosystem services for decision-making?

- Capacity/resources (data gaps, costly, limited long-term/robust data)
- Awareness/understanding. Inability to communicate economic valuation results in a non-technical manner to (non-expert) decision makers
- Competing world views and vested interests
- Lack of political will
- Access and availability of robust data as inputs into economic valuation
- Ownership by and involvement of decision makers and other key stakeholders

4. How are these difficulties overcome?

- Create a critical mass of expertise
- Target valuation to answering a specific question
- Improve data availability/accessibility. Do it “quicker and easier”
- Increase buy-in. Conduct “quick and dirty” studies for initial awareness-raising; use success stories/case studies; show short and long-term benefits; and use language decision-makers understand

III: Economic Valuation and Market-Based Instruments

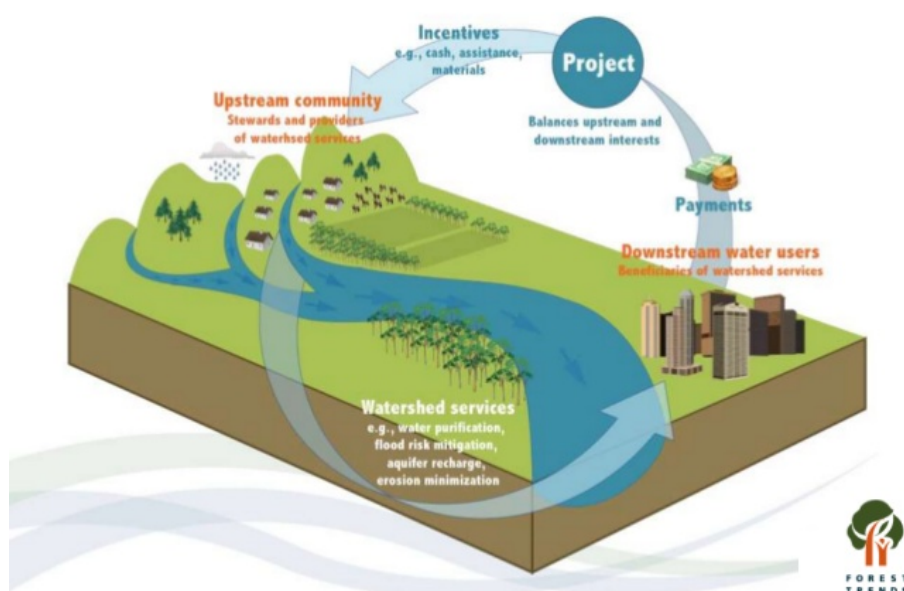
This session aimed to introduce various options for market-based instruments including Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes; illustrate the institutional requirements and processes for stakeholder involvement and the engagement that needs to accompany these processes; and highlight the importance of good governance for market-based instruments/PES, from public participation to transparency and access to information, to property rights and negotiation issues.



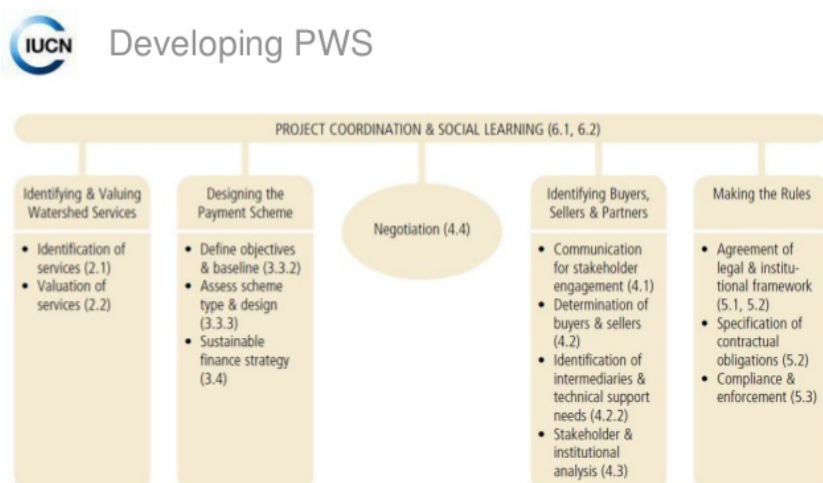
PES schemes use markets to create incentives for sustainable land and water management. For example, in the diagram below, the upstream sellers exchange services for payment and downstream buyers make payments in return for services. The market is set up to reward sellers by “internalizing externalities”, such as water quality and flood control.

Quick Links:

- [Using Market-Based Instruments and Tools and Issues in Identifying, Designing and Implementing PES](#)
- [Case Study and Discussion: The Benefits of Ecosystem Services, Environmental Economics and Eco-Compensation Schemes](#)
- [Partnering with the Private Sector for Watershed Protection in the Montagua-Polochic System in Guatemala](#)
- [Latin America Water Funds Partnership Experiences from Scaling Up Watershed Conservation](#)



The roadmap to an agreement involves engaging stakeholders, convening the right parties, information and analysis, and finally the negotiation process. Agreements encompass services to be provided and how specified; amount and form of compensation; monitoring of implementation; sanctions for non-compliance; and administration of schemes. This roadmap is depicted generally in the below diagrams.





Process: roadmap to agreement



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



Making the rules



Session V: Using Economic Valuation for Decision-Making

This session focused on the “additional information” necessary for decision makers to employ economic valuation to policy choices and on a reflection on successful examples of “bridging the gap”

General Reflection Points on “Bridging the Gap”

- There is a need for better descriptions of ecosystem services, including ensuring that the nomenclature is well understood
- Different people and organizations may interpret ecosystems and “services” differently
- A glossary of terms relevant to ecosystem services and values (monetary and non-monetary) would assist with this
- New ways must be found to monetize existing ecosystem services, such as incorporating the value of carbon into project planning – (carbon markets, carbon taxes, carbon sequestration, regulating ecosystem services etc).
- Successful examples to date of bridging the gap between policy and science are few and far between. One example is the New York sewage treatment plant and the natural system Catskill Mountains
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/13/nyregion/13water.html?_r=0
- There was some discussion about using the right ecosystem service modeling tools. Reference was made to bio-economics modeling tools by Ussif Rashid Sumaila, University of British Columbia *Differences in Economic Perspectives and Implementation of Ecosystem-based Management of Marine Resources*
http://www.incofish.org/workpackages/wp8/Downloads/Sumaila_in_MEPS.pdf
- There was also a comment that what needs to happen is that these tools should be used to empower the “power makers” including ensuring that they have an understanding of the processes and how and why the data can and should be used

A case study presentation on Blue Carbon (Efforts to Harness Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Values for Improved Ecosystem Management) provided some lessons and elements for success in “bridging the gap” between valuation and policymaking:

- Consult with policymakers at the beginning of the project – understand local demand and desired outcomes
- Gain authority for the project and your stakeholder engagement (political support)
- Engage stakeholders through a continual consultation process
- Effective communication is key, especially clear messaging of scope of project and desired outcomes
- Have an honest discussion of expectations and limitations (avoid overselling)
- Policy engagement cannot be ignored

Quick Link:

- [Case Study: Application of Economic Valuation to Policymaking](#)

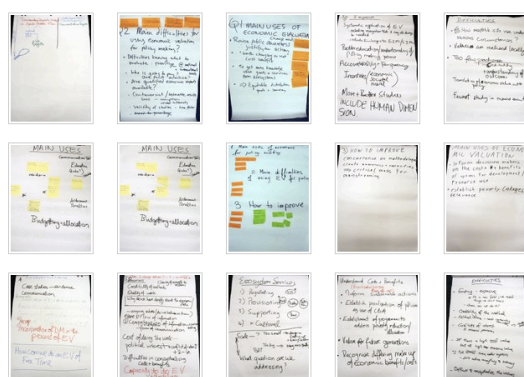
The Targeted Workshop culminated with participants developing Personal Action Plans (PAPs) for designing and implementing economic valuation approaches and PES programmes. Participants answered the following questions:

1. What are possible goals for economic valuation of ecosystems in your home basin or project?;
2. What are your personal goals for ongoing learning about economic valuation of ecosystems? What role would you like to play in supporting application of economic valuation of ecosystems in your home basin or project?;
3. What support is needed for your personal priority actions, including from the IW:LEARN Community of Practice?; and
4. What progress on your priority actions do you want to achieve in three months and six months from now?

These PAPs serve as an invaluable source of information as well as one of the means of active consultation with projects about their learning needs. They will assist IW:LEARN in supporting projects in translating the concepts of economic valuation into specific applications and learning objectives for their projects and institutions at home during its current phase and will help in formulating the design of the next phase of IW:LEARN.

TABLE DIALOGUES: DISCUSSING INCREASED PORTFOLIO APPLICATION OF ECONOMIC VALUATION TO ACHIEVE DESIRED PROJECT OUTCOMES IN POLICY

Table dialogues, on Day 1 of the main conference, built on the outputs from the targeted workshop on economic valuation and these outputs' implications for the design and implementation of future GEF transboundary waters projects. It aimed to share some good practices and results from projects that applied economic valuation with the rest of the portfolio; and identify key steps in implementing these approaches portfolio-wide.



Quick Link:

- [Table Dialogue Flipcharts](#)
- [Table Dialogue Summaries](#)

The main exercise for the twelve breakout groups was to identify priority answers regarding three key questions: What are and should be the main uses of economic valuation for policy making? What are the main difficulties for using economic valuation for policy making? How can the use of economic valuation for policymaking be improved? The priority answers were compiled and are identified in Annex I of this Report.

Conference Sessions: Results and Key Messages for the Portfolio

The IWC7 featured over thirty sessions, ranging from a pre-conference targeted workshop to plenaries, project presentations and small table dialogues. Each session organizer was asked to ensure that their session delivered a benefit for the GEF IW portfolio in terms of critical information or new management approaches. The following pages provide a summary of the conference discussion and captures highlights and key takeaways from each session, where possible.

The conference gathered a variety of stakeholders: GEF IW project managers, representatives of beneficiary countries, non-governmental organizations, transboundary management institutions, UN agencies and the private sector. Stakeholder relevance is included at the beginning of each key message, where applicable, and indicated as follows:

GEF Agency: **GA**
 Private Sector/NGO: **PS/NGO**
 Government Representative: **GR**

Project Manager: **PM**
 Transboundary Management Institution: **TBMI**

REPLICATING GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FROM THE WIDER CARRIBEAN

Desired Outcomes: Portfolio replicates shared experiences and approaches. Host region projects contribute to leadership in transboundary waters management in SIDS and other issues.

Project Managers and representatives from GEF International Waters Projects in the Wider Caribbean Region shared their thoughts on the impacts their projects have had in the region, the legacy that they hoped their projects would leave behind, as well as recommendations both for ongoing and future GEF Projects within the portfolio.

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Common to the success of all the projects represented was the need for effective and sustained communication and engagement of local and national stakeholders throughout the project cycle. In addition, the ability of projects to respond in a flexible manner to the national, and at times local community needs while remaining within the projects goals and objectives was challenging but at the same time rewarding. In that regard, project managers felt a level of satisfaction with what was achieved in areas such as improved governance, pollution prevention, coastal zone and watershed management and ecosystem protection.
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) However it was recognized that for longer-term sustainability, mechanisms should be formalized within the IW portfolio to facilitate more active exchanges between regional projects during implementation. This would enable projects to work together especially when engaging politicians and national decision makers. Such coordination would also establish a firmer basis for new projects to build on the successes of previous ones.

Quick Link:

- [Video: Caribbean Host Region Update](#)

CELEBRATING THE LAST TWO YEARS OF GEF IW PORTFOLIO ACHIEVEMENTS

Desired Outcome: GEF IW projects replicate successful approaches.

(GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Projects and stakeholders may look to the following recent portfolio achievements for guidance and replication on a variety of IW management issues

- **A new transboundary convention.** The Benguela Current Convention is the world's first large marine ecosystem legal framework and represents the first example of cross-sectoral management within an LME framework. At the heart of the Convention is the concept of the ecosystem approach: a long-term approach that aims to maintain ecosystem goods and services for sustainable use, while recognizing that humans are an integral part of the process. Holistic, adaptive management is essential to address increasing threats to complex coastal and marine environments. Furthermore, a very strong political commitment is needed at all times and it is very important to involve stakeholders from all walks of life.
- **A new Strategic Action Programme.** The signing of the Strategic Action Programme for the Nubian Aquifer system, the world's largest known "fossil" aquifer system, establishes a long-term framework for equitable utilization of the aquifer among the four arid nations and for strengthening capacity to monitor and manage the aquifer effectively. The agreement seeks to strengthen transboundary water cooperation among the four countries to ensure water removal does not threaten water quality, harm the surrounding desert ecosystem and its biodiversity, or accelerate land degradation. The agreement is based on an ecosystem-based management approach (EBMA) and integrated water resources management (IWRM), and includes transboundary actions and targets that individual countries are expected to translate into national actions. The agreement of the Strategic Action Programme is the result of real cooperation between the four States, the IAEA and UNDP-GEF.
- **A new Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis.** The Bay of Bengal LME TDA draws on numerous studies and extensive regional and national consultations with stakeholders. Transparency and extensive consultation are very important during the TDA process. The TDA process has led to greater regional collaboration, capacity development and increased stakeholder level of awareness about the transboundary issues in the Bay of Bengal LME.
- **Enhanced Regional Management Institution.** The Amazon Basin is working toward an enhanced basin-wide IWRM institution. The complex (upstream vs. downstream) TDA process acts to strengthen both the local, national and regional water management capacity, while also addressing climate change. It is important to try to innovate to integrate climate change problems and solutions into the natural resources management of a transboundary basin. Create an alliance among the academic community, government institutions of natural resource management and local communities for the IWRM of the basin.

- **Municipal Wastewater Reduction.** The Pacific Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Programme assists Pacific Island Countries to establish and implement effective IWRM and Water Use Efficiency (WUE) plans based on best practices and demonstrations. Water connects and links to the responsibilities and activities of actors from many different sectors and interest groups. It is therefore important that national development planning involves and coordinates all these sectors and groups in order to avoid duplication of effort and make sure that all aspects of water management are covered in a cost-effective manner. This can be facilitated by IWRM planning processes, where representatives from different sectors and stakeholder groups can outline common plans, strategies, policies and legislation for how to manage water. Common strategies and planning can help governments to better coordinate the responsibilities of different institutions, the contributions of externally funded projects, and collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.
- **Agricultural Pollution Control.** The Integrated Nutrient Pollutions Control – Romania SAP-IMP project, among other interventions, focuses on installation of communal level manure storage facilities and will further invest in new biogas production demo facilities. The project acts as the only funding mechanism for the implementation of EU nitrate directive standards for subsistence farmers and plays a key role informing the rest of the region on effective and measurable nutrient management and outreach. One of the project's stress reduction achievements has been through the promotion of a Code of Good Agricultural Practices, with results being reduced tillage, plantation of buffer strips and vegetative barriers, and more prevalent use of organic fertilizers in the region (10,320kg N/year in 2012; 24,000kg N/year in 2015)
- **Fisheries Pressure Reduction.** The development objective of the Kenya Coastal Development Project (KCDP) is to promote an environmentally sustainable management of Kenya's coastal and marine resources by strengthening the capacity of existing relevant government agencies and by enhancing the capacity of rural micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in selected coastal communities. The first component of the project is sustainable management of fisheries resources. To serve as a baseline, KCDP carried out a fisheries frame survey in 2012, which is subsequent to other similar surveys carried out in 2004, 2006, and 2008. In respect to the IW indicators on stress reduction, for instance, on fishing pressure and improved use of fishing gear, the results of the 2012 frame survey are indicative of an increase in the fishing pressure. To reverse this trend of seemingly increasing fishing pressure, KCDP is undertaking activities such as supporting the installation of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in vessels fishing in Kenyan waters, thus stepping up monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) to ensure compliance; regulating the fishing sector through licensing; and facilitating the development of management plans for key exploited species and support to alternative livelihoods.

Quick Links:

- [Portfolio Update Overview Presentation](#)
- [New Transboundary Convention – Benguela Current LME](#)
- [Enhanced Regional Management Institution – Amazon Basin](#)
- [New Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis – Bay of Bengal LME](#)
- [New Strategic Action Programme – Nubian Aquifer](#)
- [Municipal Wastewater Reduction – Pacific IWRM Wastewater](#)
- [Agricultural Pollution Control – Romania](#)

LEVERAGING RECENT INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENTS TO BENEFIT GEF INTERNATIONAL WATERS PROJECTS

Desired Outcomes: Increased portfolio capacity in the area of legal and institutional frameworks. GEF portfolio has raised awareness of governance tools that aim to provide stable and reliable cooperation and achieve the goal of sustainable, equitable and reasonable use of international waters

- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) TDA and SAP formulation, negotiation of a legal agreement and establishment of a joint management mechanism are important tools to establish and foster continued cooperation among countries sharing international waters and ecosystems
- (GR, TBMI) The adoption of a legal agreement is only one step in this process of cooperation. It provides a valuable and stable framework for future interaction between countries
- (GR, TBMI) It is important to avoid overlap between legal instruments and institutions. Making use of and expanding the mandate of existing institutions can be a sensible approach to not overburden country budgets
- (GA, PM, NGO, GR, TBMI) At the same time, global and regional legal frameworks are mutually supportive. For example, many basin or LME water treaties implement or relate to UNCLOS or UN Watercourses

Convention/UNECE Water Convention principles, plus the Biodiversity Convention, the Ramsar Convention, and the Climate Change Convention

- (GA, GR, TBMI) Convention Secretariats such as UNECE and IMO act as integrators and coordinators across different frameworks and provide valuable services through technical assistance and capacity building, among others, to developing countries for implementation
- (GA) GEF plays an important role globally in promoting implementation of agreed principles on shared resources management and the establishment of legal frameworks and institutions to sustainably manage international waters resources

IW FILM FESTIVAL

Desired Outcomes: Increased portfolio capacity and replication of best practices

(GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Before the conference, the finalists were selected by an independent panel. A mixed panel of participants from NGOs, the private sector, project managers, government representatives and GEF agencies selected the winner.

Featured Films:

- [Caribbean Wastewater Report Card](#) "Are we failing in our handling of wastewater. The first in GEF CReW's documentary series" (**WINNER**)
- [Baikal Without Boundaries](#) "United Nations Development Programme, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Office for Project Services, and Atlas of Culture present "Baikal Without Boundaries". This film is about Lake Baikal, the biggest lake in the world."
- [Together for the Mediterranean Sea](#) "A short documentary about the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) that is a collective effort of leading organizations and countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea towards the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean. The documentary was filmed in Albania, Montenegro, Tunisia and Greece."
- [Integration for Sustainable Development](#) "The film showcases results of Pacific IWRM and promotes the multi-focal area R2R approach"
- [IWCAM Report - GEF Helps Protect Caribbean Waterways](#) Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States

TECHNICAL SITE VISITS

Desired Outcomes: GEF IW projects advance application of ecosystem-based management to integrate natural resource systems management (e.g. improved stakeholder engagement to integrate freshwater and marine, land and water, and mainstreaming climate variability and change.

(GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Barbados provides multiple case studies in both integrated water resource management as well as integrated coastal zone management. Three technical site visit options were developed under the theme "*Ridge to Reef, Barbados*". These site visits highlighted a range of water management challenges faced by Barbados, including GEF Small Grant Programme investment. Traditional and new management approaches in the areas of land use planning, coastal zone management, wastewater reuse and treatment, marine protected areas and groundwater protection formed the core elements of the site visits. The objectives of the Technical Site Visits were to observe local examples of good practices in water-resource management and GEF IW projects advance application of ecosystem-based management to integrate natural resource systems management (e.g. improved stakeholder engagement to integrate freshwater and marine, land and water, and mainstreaming climate variability and change).

- Site Visit 1, **Coastal Zone Management Risks and Responses** showcased coastal zone management issues, as well as policies and direct interventions undertaken by the Government of Barbados to minimize coastal risks and remediate areas affected by coastal erosion. Participants visited Foul Bay, to witness sound coastal zone practices to combat cliff recession; Rockley and Welches to learn about beach improvement projects to address substantial



Quick Link:

- [Video: Technical Site Visits Reflections](#)

erosion and flooding concerns; and two GEF Small Grants Programme-supported projects (A reef ball installation project at Oistins and the Folkestone Marine Reserve co-management project).

- Barbados is recognized globally as a water scarce country. Site Visit 2, **Groundwater Risks, Demand and Supply Management**, focused on management issues ranging from the protection of the groundwater resource to measures to meet current and forecasted demand to support national development needs. The itinerary for this visit included a visit to Belle Pumping Station to learn about source water issues and management; Foursquare Rum Distillery to learn about industrial water demand and management; and a visit to Ionics Freshwater to learn about water supply augmentation.
- The third site visit, **Land Use Planning and Management – Water Management Challenges and Responses in a Hazard-Prone Landscape**, highlighted the land use management issues related to Harrison's Cave and the surrounding Zone of Special Environmental Control; the water management, erosion risk in the Scotland District and complementary use and management framework for the Barbados National Park.
- Each Site Visit culminated with a trip to Mount Gay Visitor Centre to experience the story of rum and learn about the water processes behind its manufacturing.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR INTERNATIONAL WATERS - PORTFOLIO STRATEGY FOR THE GEF 6 REPLENISHMENT PHASE

Desired Outcome: GEF IW stakeholders are informed of opportunities and key innovations in GEF6 and apply anticipated changes in upcoming submissions.

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The proposed GEF 6 Strategy goal is to promote collective management for transboundary systems and foster policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments toward sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services. The strategy's three objectives are 1) Catalyze Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters; 2) Balance Competing Water-uses in the Management of Transboundary Surface and Groundwater; and 3) Rebuild Marine Fisheries, Restore and Protect Coastal Habitats, and Reduce Pollution of Costs and LMEs
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Water is key to development. Balancing water needs across sectors and borders will continue to be key in GEF6
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) Climate change needs to be addressed in all new TDA/SAPs
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Cooperation needs investments and investments need cooperation. GEF 6 foundational activities will continue to build in tangible demonstrations

Quick Link:

- [Overview Presentation of the Proposed GEF-6 Strategy](#)

GEF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (GEF TWAP): CONTRIBUTING TO SCIENCE-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY AQUATIC SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE USE

Desired Outcomes: Increased portfolio interest in using indicator-based assessment in periodic monitoring of transboundary basin states to assess effectiveness of management policies. Incorporation of indicator-based assessment in GEF IW project development such as the transboundary diagnostic analysis. The following bullets include messages from the TWAP small session, which aimed to bring together persons involved in marine assessment and management processes to critically examine the needs for and use of environmental, socio-economic and governance indicators related to the marine environment

- (GA, PM, PS/NGO, GR, TBMI) The management of transboundary waters is constrained by the lack of a systematic, global-scale comparative assessment of changing conditions in response to human-induced and natural stresses.
- (GA, PM, PS/NGO, GR, TBMI) The main goals of the GEF TWAP Project are to (a) implement a level-one indicator-based assessment of transboundary groundwater, lake basins and reservoirs, river basins, large marine ecosystems and the open ocean; and (b) to put in place networks and mechanisms which can sustain the incorporation of transboundary water concerns in future assessments. As a two-year (2013-2014) project, the GEF TWAP is accessible to the user public via its website at www.geftwap.org that features its data portal as gateway to project component assessment data (by water system) and to the future project assessment products. It is envisioned that assessment data and project reports will be available in 2015

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) GEF TWAP is undertaking a global assessment of transboundary water bodies, through a formalized consortium of partners, to support informed investments by the GEF and other international organizations, to be sustained through a periodic process in partnership with key institutions, aimed at incorporating transboundary considerations into regular assessment programmes
- (GA, GR, TBMI) The UN World Ocean Assessment (WOA) is driven by member states and is supported by the UNEP Regional Seas Programme (only developing countries). The Regional Seas Programme uses indicators in state of environment reporting and is evaluating a number of ecosystem indicators (a draft report on indicators is available). The importance of securing buy-in from member states for the proposed indicators was highlighted, but one of the challenges is to get member states to agree on a set of indicators. Under the Regional Seas Programme, member states are mandated to conduct monitoring for the indicators
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) The Caribbean LME project (CLME) has conducted a governance assessment (as a TWAP test case). Under the SAP, actions to improve monitoring and evaluation were endorsed by the CLME countries. The focus is on stress reduction indicators and there is need to set baselines for environmental status and socio-economic indicators, which requires a longer time frame.
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) Securing political buy-in for indicators is essential if these are to be adopted and mainstreamed, and can be facilitated through existing fora with the appropriate mandate (e.g. environmental conventions, GEF SAP process). Political buy-in is also necessary for data collecting and monitoring of the indicators, which should be demand-driven. Similarly, for TWAP to be accepted and mainstreamed, political buy-in is essential. If there is no political buy-in, nothing will happen

Quick Link:

- [GEF TWAP: Contributing to Indicator-Based Management of Transboundary Aquatic Systems](#)

BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATIONS GAP – AN EXCHANGE OF PORTFOLIO EXPERIENCE ON TRANSLATING PROJECT OUTCOMES TO POLICYMAKERS

Desired Outcome: Improved targeted communication skills in the project portfolio

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Partnership is key. We are all trying to safeguard and protect a shared resource. Only by working together (all stakeholders) can we achieve the outcomes and goals of each project
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) IW is a multi-country issue. To get policymakers to understand the issues, awareness needs to be built. There is a big gap between science and policy. Policymakers aim for results and scientists aim for truth. A strong bridge needs to be constructed
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) We use science to make sure the latest information on the resource is available. Science advisory panels can be essential in giving the basis to sound decision-making
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) We must identify the things we must not do and identify the best practices of things we should do. That way the level of success is high and all of the policies will work down the line
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Policymakers need very regular contact with focal points and they need to ask what stakeholders want, what they need and actually listening
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The importance of effective communication – a good communicator works out who the audience is, what they understand and what they need to know. Policymakers have many conflicting sources of information. Policymakers listen to many points of view before making a decision. They want information presented clearly and concisely, without longwinded explanations, and without lots of ifs and buts. Present information in a short, easily digestible form and do not use jargoned language.
- (PM) To ensure the most effective use of communications, a separate Communications Strategy could be developed. Developing a Communications Strategy does not need to take months or cost thousands of dollars. All it needs is a simple understanding of how to make such a strategy and a committed willingness to answer some basic, fundamental questions about what the project wants to achieve in terms of communication. Many project managers think developing a Communications Strategy simply means more unnecessary paperwork. However, it is likely that the investment put into smart communications planning at the start will pay off many times over in better relationships and better results. Ideally, every project team should have a designated communications specialist and that person should be given every opportunity to input into project planning. In other words they should be a key member of the project team.
- (PM) Start by targeting those audiences that are causing the problem the project wants to address. In order to make the most effective use of limited communications resources one needs to develop a clear understanding of exactly

Quick Link:

- [Video: Decision-Maker Reflections](#)

why they think or act in the ways that they do: Exactly who is causing the problem? How are they causing it? What do they currently think about the issue or problem? What costs and benefits do they perceive in acting in this way? What would you like them to do instead? Is the change easy to understand and implement? What costs and benefits would your audience associate with this change? What would best motivate them to change? What help will they need?

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The best course for sustainability is creating ownership by giving responsibility to the enumerators. Ownership of some thing gives a sense of responsibility to it. All the members of the community become part of the community. Involve the private sector. Try to involve all stakeholders as much as possible.

CATALYZING FINANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Desired Outcomes: Improved understanding of the myriad of opportunities available to catalyze finance and improve transboundary waters through partnerships; enhanced understanding of the opportunities available to engage the private sector in the GEF IW portfolio; future collaboration among private sector and participating GEF IW projects and partners

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) There are a host of examples of how markets have been harnessed and how partnerships with industry sectors have been made to create economies of scale to address environmental issues in the marine environment. Improving the state of oceanography presents a strong synergetic opportunity for the public and private sectors to collaborate in the future
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Communication remains a major barrier to enhanced private sector engagement. Explaining proposals in a way that addresses the bottom line or other key drivers of business such as risk, and delineating the business case for the private sector in a concise understandable manner, were identified as key areas to focus upon
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Companies are looking to engage in projects in the surrounding areas of their operations to address what is often the greatest source of risk
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Innovative programs such as “[Water Funds](#)” have been successful in creating projects with shared value. Identifying areas suitable for joint action remains a challenge. The “[Water Action Hub](#)” has been proposed as a tool to help in this aim
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) To achieve private sector involvement, there must be clear benefits to the private sector partners, including business benefits. The relationship between environmental performance (reductions in use of resources and production of waste etc.) and business performance (reduced costs and increased profits), and concepts such as the triple-bottom line therefore need to be promoted in GEF projects

Quick Links:

- [Catalyzing Ocean Finance: Transforming Markets to Restore and Protect the Global Ocean](#)
- [Public-Private Partnerships in Ocean Sustainability: Industry Leadership and Collaboration](#)
- [CEO Water Mandate and Collective Action](#)
- [Carlsberg Group](#)
- [Smarter Planet and Smarter Cities](#)
- [Private Sector Value Proposition](#)
- [Public-Private Partnerships Examples: The Value of Collective Action](#)

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF REGIONALISM AND INTERNATIONAL WATERS

Desired Outcome: Increased portfolio awareness on the extent and the manner in which regionalization processes influence GEF interventions and how GEF interventions can be better positioned in these processes for mutual benefit

- (GA, GR, TBMI) International waters interventions support multiple benefits at different scales and collective action is necessary to unlock these benefits. It is imperative to synchronize efforts to promote regionalism with national concerns, incentives and benefit recognizing multiple layers of governance.
- (GA) GEF should consider regional processes more systematically regarding project design baseline assessment, regional capacity building and principles for strengthening dialogue at the regional level
- (GR, TBMI) Collective action in the IW space is dependent on functioning national institutions and viable regional governance frameworks

- (TBMI) Specialized regional organizations and frameworks are able to enhance cooperation when the incentive structure is clear at the national and regional levels
- (GR, TBMI) Multi-purpose regional governance frameworks will facilitate a higher degree of political coordination and leadership in complex and politicized regions
- (GR, TBMI) Efforts to promote regionalism need to be synchronized with national concerns, incentives and benefits. See the case study on facilitating regional governance arrangements in the Wider Caribbean
- (GA) The broader regional political and economic context including the logic of states-led regional organizations should be addressed in regional GEF strategies
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) A regional governance baseline analysis that analyzes the role and function of regional institutions should be undertaken when planning transboundary water and environmental interventions and their design
- (GA, PM) Projects should be designed to support, and compliment regional policy making processes and facilitate strengthening whenever possible. The expected outcome will be sustained regional interventions and longer term benefits to project beneficiaries.
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) Where regional steering committees are able to bring together representatives of Community institutions and government authorities for project execution, this will be a positive driver that will favour project outcomes and also allow for issues to be put onto the regional political agenda.

Quick Links:

- [The Political Economy of Regionalism Overview Presentation](#)
- [Facilitating Regional Governance Arrangements in the Wider Caribbean](#)
- [A Single Space for Transactions in the Caribbean](#)
- [Organization of American States: Perspectives from a Multipurpose Regional Organization on the Environment and Overarching Goals Related to Peace, Justice and Security](#)

IDENTIFYING, QUANTIFYING AND COMMUNICATING THE BENEFITS OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS COOPERATION

Desired Outcome: Portfolio has a broader vision of the full range of potential benefits derived from transboundary water cooperation, adopting a comprehensive approach to water management.

- (GR, TBMI) Countries' willingness to engage in or deepen cooperation on shared waters is often hampered by a limited perception of the potential benefits of cooperation
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The full breadth of cooperative benefits derived from different water uses should be identified, understood and, to the extent possible, quantified to provide arguments to encourage the development of transboundary cooperation
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) It is easier to identify the benefits of transboundary water cooperation in terms of risks avoidance (or potential cost of non-action) than maximization of benefits
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) There is a need to build awareness that more information on the identification and assessment of benefits could positively influence the strengthening of transboundary cooperation
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) Clearly identifying and communicating benefits of transboundary water cooperation to policymakers is a challenge.
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) Identifying and quantifying benefits alone will not be enough. The process of identifying and quantifying the benefits and inserting those inputs into a policy process (communicating the benefits of cooperation) is equally important, if not more
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Transboundary water cooperation has been increasing, but some countries are still facing difficulties in cooperating, and part of the reason for the failure to cooperate is the lack of recognition of the benefits of cooperation. Even those countries that cooperate often do it only on narrow issues. There is scope for increasing cooperation from quantity or quality issues to a broader set of issues, and by moving from "sharing water" (i.e., allocating water resources among riparian states) to "sharing the benefits of water" (i.e., managing water resources to achieve the maximum benefit and then allocating those benefits among riparian states, including through compensation mechanisms)

Quick Link:

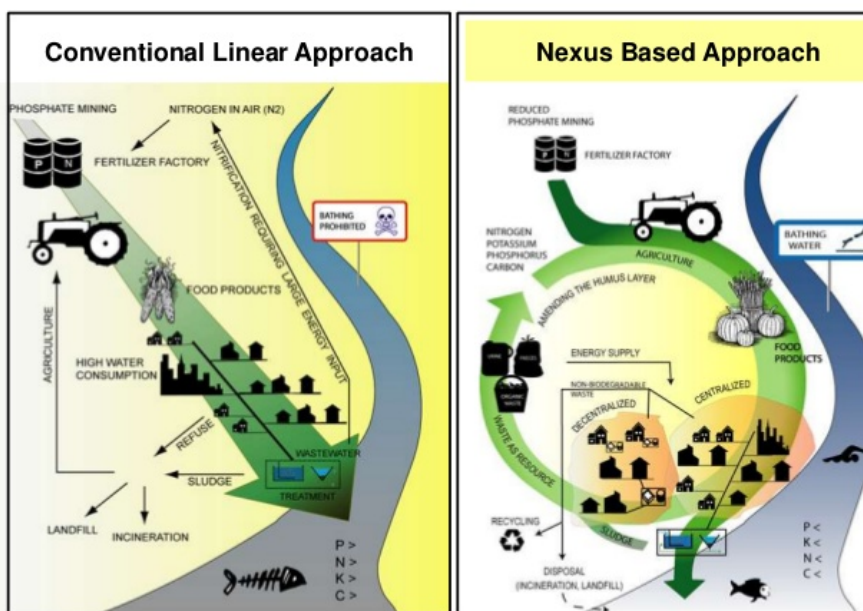
- [Identifying, Quantifying and Communicating the Benefits of Transboundary Waters Cooperation](#)

- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Some countries, development cooperation agencies and international organizations already have experience in identifying, quantifying and communicating transboundary water cooperation benefits, but many of those experiences have not been documented or made widely available
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) It is not always possible, or desirable, to quantify all the benefits of transboundary water cooperation. Benefits' assessment may include qualitative assessment, physical quantification and economic valuation (market and non-market); Benefits-assessment efforts should focus on the outcomes of established cooperation; Benefits-assessment efforts need to start by establishing a baseline, and should be careful to avoid double counting
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The benefits' assessment can support the policy process in different ways: establishing a credible and commonly accepted baseline, providing commonly accepted estimates of benefits that can be generated under different cooperation scenarios, informing the design of incentive and compensation schemes, contributing to monitoring the generation of benefits and informing the need to redesign the institutional setting for cooperation
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The results of benefit assessments can be used for multiple purposes: awareness-raising (among key stakeholders and the general public), advocacy policy development, negotiation and compensation. The communication of the benefits-assessment results needs to be tailored to the specific purpose
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Communication efforts need to take into account that upstream and downstream countries may have different perspectives, with upstream countries more focused on minimizing risks and downstream countries more focused on maximizing benefits. It is often more difficult to communicate the benefits for upstream countries.

WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS – SOLUTIONS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY MANAGEMENT

Desired Outcomes: Engagement of existing and upcoming GEF IW projects to address the water-energy-food perspectives within transboundary basins to support the equitable negotiation of water allocations across users. GEF projects use and contribute tools and case studies to the Nexus Dialogue on Water Infrastructure Solutions including through IW:LEARN and its Communities of Practice

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Recognition of the closely bound interactions among water, energy and food, “the Nexus”, (see diagram, right) has led to new demands for infrastructure and technology solutions for security. There is a need to balance the competing demands on natural resources whilst maintaining sustainable and productive landscapes. GEF-IW has good examples of nexus to learn from e.g. Dominican/Haiti
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Value natural infrastructure by investing to secure, improve and restore the considerable multi-functional value of biodiversity and ecosystems to provide food and energy, conserve water, sustain livelihoods and contribute to a green economy while strengthening the basic role that nature plays in supporting life, well-being and cultures
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The non-water sector may be a better driver for integration (energy, agriculture, fish)
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) GEF IW can help catalyze inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration platforms for government and private sector



Quick Link:

- [The Nexus Dialogue on Water Infrastructure Solutions](#)

COOPERATION WITH NGOs ON KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER, GROUNDWATER AND LAKE BASIN MANAGEMENT

Desired Outcomes: Increased awareness and understanding of NGOs of knowledge needs and means of access by GEF IW project stakeholders. Concrete steps to increase interaction between GEF IW projects and partner organization projects in sharing experiences and undertaking learning activities.

- (GA, NGO, PM, TBMI) Face-to-face and targeted workshops, applications, and live-streaming are all needed for knowledge management
- (GA, NGO, PM, TBMI) For effective knowledge management platforms: webinars need to be recorded for access and use later; libraries must be easy to access and navigate; language compatibility is important; simple, clear visualizations of information are needed; search functions for IW information is a bit of a gap
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) When it comes to engagement with stakeholders, more proactive distribution from agencies and entities actually producing the knowledge would be useful to make sure all stakeholders are reached. There needs to be greater diversification of how knowledge is packaged depending on the stakeholders
- (GA, NGO, PM, TBMI) Communities of Practice (CoP) need to be more actively nurtured and fully resourced. CoPs also need to exist at different levels, more than just at the GEF. Integrating policymakers and stakeholders through proper coordination is needed
- (GA, NGO, PM, TBMI) There needs to be realistic budgets attached to CoPs to ensure their functionality and usefulness.
- (GA, NGO, PM, TBMI) There needs to be project, context, and cultural specificity for knowledge access
- (GA, NGO, PM, TBMI) There is a need to map what is going on and where so as not to overlap each other's efforts
- (GA, NGO, PM, TBMI) NGOs indicated that their baseline knowledge management programs can complement the scale at which GEF IW works currently with IW:LEARN. As GEF contemplates the next iteration of GEF IW:LEARN, there seems to be scope for collaboration among the NGOs and GEF, complementing the existing partnership implementation structure

Quick Links:

- [Cooperation with NGOs on Knowledge Management and Transboundary River, Groundwater and Lake Basin Management](#)
- [The GEF IW:LEARN Experience](#)

THE GEF/UNEP PROJECT “GLOBAL FOUNDATIONS FOR REDUCING NUTRIENT ENRICHMENT AND OXYGEN DEPLETION FROM LAND-BASED POLLUTION, IN SUPPORT OF GLOBAL NUTRIENT CYCLE

Desired Outcomes: Increased portfolio awareness on what to, how to and why develop and implement systems of nutrient reduction best practices.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported “Global foundations for reducing nutrient enrichment and oxygen depletion from land based pollution, in support of Global Nutrient Cycle” is designed to provide the foundations (such as building partnerships, providing information, tools and policy options) for governments and other stakeholders to initiate comprehensive, effective and sustained programmes addressing nutrient over-enrichment and oxygen depletion from land based pollution of coastal waters in Large Marine Ecosystems.

- There is widespread scientific agreement that intensification of food production and fertilizer use as currently practiced, will increase nutrient loading to already-stressed coastal ecosystems, which is directly linked to creation of “dead zones” of low oxygen. These hypoxic “dead zones” have increased almost nine times since 1969. Other factors such as discharge of untreated domestic wastewater, effluents from aquaculture and livestock production systems also contribute significantly to these nutrient challenges.
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) There is a strong linkage between food security and environmental stewardship, defined as the responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those whose actions affect the environment (US Environmental Protection Agency)
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) There are possibilities to launch regional platforms to ensure transfer of practices and policies and facilitate the implementation of the LBS protocol
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The session brought forward a new concept of practice scale and scalability called the 4A's

Quick Links:

- [Nutrient Best Management Practices for Water Quality Protection](#)
- [Global Foundations for Reducing Nutrient Enrichment and Oxygen Depletion from Land-Based Pollution, In Support of Global Nutrient Cycle](#)

(Applicability, Adaptability, Affordability and Acceptability), which will be blended with the 4Rs for nutrient management – in a two page document deliverable by end 2013

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) There are several examples of systems of practices, including micro-dosing for small holder farmers – as exemplified in Manila Bay, Chilika Lake, Lake Victoria
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Stakeholders expressed strong interest in collaboration to uptake project outcomes (CReW, Romania, Caribbean Environment Programme, Gulf of Mexico LME)

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE IN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (ABNJ)

Desired Outcomes: Portfolio has increased awareness on how to assess the effectiveness of Communities of Practice.

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Communities of Practice (CoPs) in ABNJ can provide opportunities and incentives for participants and stakeholders to share knowledge, tools, and best practices and be involved in decision-making processes in ABNJ
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, TBMI) CoPs will require resources to support facilitators and opportunities for face-to-face meetings and virtual communication
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) CoPs will need buy-in from stakeholders in ABNJ (individuals and organizations) in order to be successful
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) In the context of an ecosystem approach, stakeholders must see a continuum from the coastal zone, EEZ, out to ABNJ, and not solely ABNJ, as processes and ecosystems in these ocean areas are interconnected
- (GA, PM, GR, TBMI) Ad hoc efforts will not be enough—capacity development for ABNJ must be institutionalized to support long-term, sustained and coordinated efforts
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The full range of capacity development needs for ABNJ must be included, e.g., from addressing sectoral needs to building the enabling environment for improving management and governance
- (GA, NGO, PM, TBMI) The aim of the community should remain focused on the learning that is desired, and not become forced to take on other objectives.

Quick Link:

- [Building Communities of Practice in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction](#)

THE FLOODS AND DROUGHTS MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Desired Outcomes: A common understanding of the methodology and implementation plan for the project, as a basis for wider basin involvement in the project

The GEF project “Development of Tools to Incorporate Impacts of Climatic Variability and Change, in Particular Floods and Droughts, into Basin Planning Processes” is starting implementation (end of 2013).

- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The elements that constitute effective methods and tools to reduce water-related hazard risk are context specific, as well as dependent on the perspective of the respective experts and institutions engaged
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Decision Support Systems (DSS) provide an opportunity to embed information technology and analytical tools more thoroughly in water resources agencies’ workflow; provide a technical platform for collaboration internally and externally. The DSS concept matches well with implementation of IWRM processes by water resources agencies
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Typical technical frameworks of DSS comprise: data, information and knowledge; assessment, analysis and operation; and interactive communication

Quick Links:

- [Addressing Floods and Droughts in GEF-supported TDA/SAPs](#)
- [Water Safety Plans and Catchment Management](#)

DATA VISUALIZATION AS A TOOL FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Desired Outcomes: Improved accessibility to project results and achievements to a broader audience of stakeholders. Increased utilization of visualization tools by GEF IW projects to communicate their results. Increased awareness of how GEF IW:LEARN can assist projects with their data management and visualization.

- (GA, PM,) Projects need to share available data on process, stress reduction and environmental status results with IW:LEARN to enable IW:LEARN to populate the visualization tool and graphically report results and impacts across the portfolio

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Social media (Facebook, Twitter) is an interactive and sustainable approach to involve stakeholders
- (GA, PM) The sensitivities and challenges involved in producing a geospatial database for projects include consolidating and preserving differences in language, classifications, formats, reference systems, scale, harmonizing process and quality control
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) It is important to publish maps and visualized data as a vital aid in decision-making, monitoring and evaluation and promoting advocacies. Perhaps most importantly, data visualization can serve as a tool to improve stakeholder buy-in to GEF IW project interventions, from the donor to community levels
- (GA, PM) Projects have to think about whether they should be 'visualizing data' and/or 'exposing the actual data' and equal importance should be placed on interoperability where data and system should be able to communicate regardless of the technology used for the databases and/or websites
- (GA, PM) The GEF should place additional resources into the projects and IW:LEARN for improved accessibility to project results

Quick Links:

- [\[Presentation - Nico Willemse, Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem\]](#)
- [\[Presentation - Neno Kukuric, Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System\]](#)
- [\[Presentation - Chris Paterson, Pacific SIDS IWRM Wastewater\]](#)
- [\[Links- Khristine Custodio, GEF IW:LEARN\]](#)

TWO GLOBAL TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS CONVENTIONS: A CATALYST FOR COOPERATION ON SHARED WATERS

Desired Outcomes: Broader knowledge of the two global transboundary water conventions. The UNECE Water Convention and the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention, their rules, and procedures and concrete achievements. Increased understanding of how the conventions, as global legal frameworks, can be beneficial for GEF projects, and therefore contribute to GEF overall goals and specific IW strategies

- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The UNECE Water Convention and the UN Watercourses Convention are compatible and complement each other. The Ramsar Convention should also be considered as an agreement to facilitate water cooperation
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) International water law / legal frameworks are key instruments to ensure the sustainability of progress in transboundary water
- (PM) There is a lack of awareness by GEF IW project managers about the Conventions and how the Conventions could support their work and the sustainability of the GEF IW projects outcomes
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) The imminent entry into force of the UN Watercourses Convention and the opening of the UNECE Water Convention call for a careful analysis of how to: ensure that the two global transboundary water conventions are implemented in a mutually reinforcing manner, so as to avoid duplication, exploit synergies, maximize the efficient use of resources, and promote the coherent development of international water law; and capitalize on the global legitimacy of the UN Watercourses Convention and the 20 years of experience under the UNECE Water Convention toward progressively building a legally mandated, effective and truly global transboundary water regime.
- (GA, NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) An institutional Options Discussion Paper <http://www.unwatercoursesconvention.org/documents/discussion-paper-global-un-water-conventions-options-for-coordinated-implementation.pdf> has been developed which aims to support such an analysis by exploring three basic options for coordinating the UN Watercourses Convention implementation process with activities carried out under the UNECE Water Convention

Quick Link:

- [Two Global Transboundary Waters Conventions: A Catalyst for Cooperation on Shared Waters](#)

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Desired Outcome: Portfolio hears reflections on the IWC7

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Community to cabinet. Because addressing common pool resources, governance becomes particularly complex and there is a critical need to think at all levels. From the sessions and films, the portfolio learned about the breadth of GEF projects, from working with local schools in Indonesia on reef

monitoring, to signing the Benguela Current Convention across Angola, Namibia and South Africa. One of the advantages the new implementing agencies, WWF and Conservation International, bring to the table is a link to the local level. This community to cabinet approach is underscored by the need for stakeholder engagement. The portfolio needs to particularly work on engaging the private sector

- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Capacity building continues to be a major issue. Institutional stability is important. The Government of Barbados, by way of example, has invested a great deal of training to ensure staff are constantly learning and bringing new ideas.
- (GA, PS/NGO, PM, GR, TBMI) Projects are more than products. They are foremost about process, about establishing long-term sustainable mechanisms and human capacity to continue long after GEF funding, which is why the planning phase with stakeholder engagement is recognized as being particularly critical. The conference has highlighted the payoff, with projects becoming self-sufficient moving into the next phase.

In closing, additional competition winners were announced. The Coral Triangle project won the IW:LEARN website competition, and the Amazon River project won the award for top exhibit booth in the Innovation Marketplace. Earlier in the conference, GloBallast won the International Waters Game Show and the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management won the International Waters Film Festival.

After remarks by Edison Alleyne, Barbados Ministry of Environment and Drainage Permanent Secretary, the IWC7 closed with Nelson Andrade-Colmenares, on behalf of the host region, transferring the Conference Cup to Yinfeng Guo of PEMSEA. The East Asian Seas Region will host IWC8 in 2015.

Programme and Project Presentations

GLOBAL GEF GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

- The Global GEF Groundwater and Surface Water Communities of Practice were established with the objective to capitalize on the vast knowledge and resources gathered in 20 years of IW projects and to find ways to keep these alive across and beyond the portfolio. The CoPs foresee a “virtual face” (online platforms) as well as a face-to-face approach to provide global hubs for water practitioners.

Quick Links:

- [Video: Groundwater Talks](#)
- [Communities of Practice Overview Presentation](#)

EXPLORING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE MARINE COMMODITIES PROJECT AND THE GEF LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM AND FISHERIES PORTFOLIO

- UNDP and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) are partners in the Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities project, currently in PPG stage. The undertaking focuses on developing replicable pilot fishery improvement projects by aligning the interests of seafood end markets, supply chain, government regulators, producers (fishers), and other stakeholders to increase global demand and to improve sustainability of source fisheries in the Philippines, Indonesia, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. The work largely follows the fishery improvement project (FIP) model developed by SFP and other NGOs over the last seven years.

Quick Link:

- [Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities](#)

IMPLEMENTING REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS THROUGH LOCAL ACTIONS

- Effective international waters management needs to integrate actions at regional, national and local level. The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) has worked closely with a number of GEF full-sized projects in the Nile River, the South China Sea, and the East Asian Seas to support the implementation of the regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP) through community driven projects at the local level. Two important GEF initiatives in the Caribbean region, UNDP/GEF CLME Project and UNEP/GEF IW-Eco Project, are joining forces with the SGP to promote closer coordination.

Quick Link:

- [Small Grants Programme: Delivering Results to Communities](#)

CAPTURING CORAL REEF AND RELATED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

- The Capturing Coral Reefs and Related Ecosystem Services (CCRES) will demonstrate how the conflict between economies, ecosystems and community wellbeing may be resolved by using the ecosystem services concept to create a self-reinforcing relationship between local economies and the natural resources on which they rely. By explicitly valuing many of the ecosystem services CCRES will also provide the political rationale for protecting natural capital such as coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass beds, and show how competition among businesses, conservation activities and other planning objectives may be reconciled to maximize public benefits in an equitable and transparent manner.

Quick Link:

- [Capturing Coral Reef & Related Ecosystem Services](#)

GEF HAI BASIN INTEGRATED WATER AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECT

- How much water is available to consume for various economic activities in urban and rural areas without adverse impacts on ecosystems in a river basin? How does one ensure the actual consumptive use of water does not exceed the amount of water available to consume in a sustainable manner? What actions should be taken to have a more balanced social and economic development and ecosystem preservation in a river basin to protect the neighboring international waters and sea? The answers to these questions are proposed with a new approach on integrated water and environment management (IWEM) tested successfully under the Hai Basin project and supported by the cutting-edge remote sensing technologies to measure ET (evapotranspiration), and modeling technologies to derive EC (environmental carrying capacity) in the studied river basin.

Quick Link:

- [Measuring Water from Sky: Basin-Wide ET Monitoring and Application](#)

GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE – A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

- Groundwater governance can be qualified as “an overarching framework and set of guiding principles that determines and enables the sustainable management of groundwater resources and the use of aquifers”. The lack of adequate governance – i.e.: overarching enabling frameworks and guiding principles – hinders the achievement of groundwater resources management goals such as resource sustainability, water security, economic development, equitable access to benefits from water and conservation of ecosystems. It is for these reasons that the GEF has joined forces with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP), the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), the World Bank, and a multitude of scientists and water managers from across the globe, in the project “Groundwater Governance – A Global Framework for Action”. The project represents an ambitious effort to raise global awareness on the urgent need for improved groundwater governance, set the foundations for a global response to this new challenge, and catalyze the necessary action.

Quick Link:

- [Groundwater Governance – A Global Framework for Action](#)

TOWARDS CONVERGING MANAGEMENT APPROACHES FOR MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL ZONES IN THE MEDPARTNERSHIP PROJECT

- The UNEP/MAP GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership), aims to reverse the degradation trends affecting the Mediterranean’s unique large marine ecosystem, including its coastal habitats and biodiversity. Within this project some of the biggest organizations working in the field of sustainable development in the Mediterranean including UNEP/MAP, GEF/World Bank, EU, together with all partner countries joined forces and, through a coordinated and strategic approach, are striving to catalyze the policy, legal and institutional reforms along with 78 demonstrations. The project was launched in 2009 and it is to be finalized by 2015.

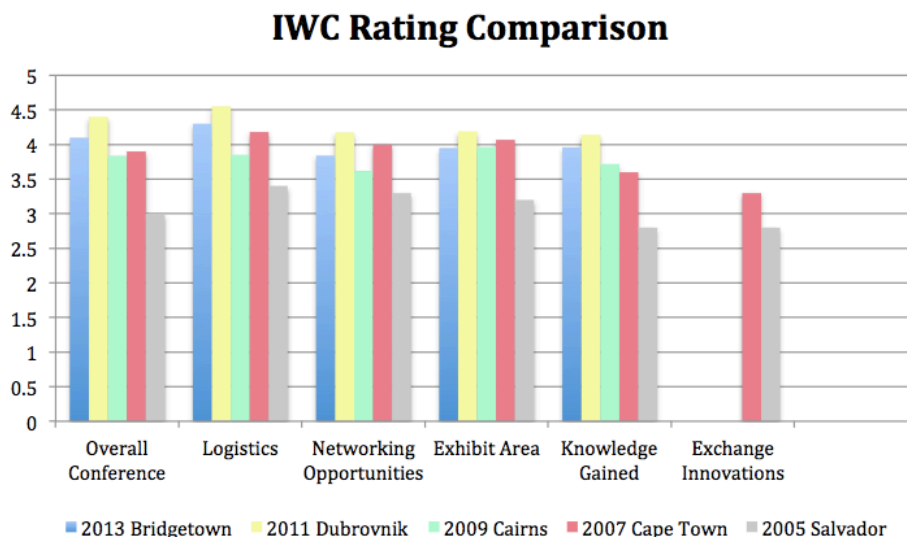
INNOVATION MARKETPLACE

- The Innovation Marketplace was the exhibition space during the conference. The booth/display area featured 20 exhibits highlighting project innovations and results, including unique approaches and catalytic outcomes, with emphasis on how these might be replicated. Exhibitors: UNECE, GloBallast, GEF Small Grants Programme, Kura Aras, IAEA, BCLME, PEMSEA, Baikal, Amazon River, MedPartnership, IW:LEARN, ABNJ, UNIDO, CReW, ASCLME, Pacific IWRM, Hai Basin, UNESCO, CLME, Romania Nutrients, Govt. of Barbados.



Conference Evaluation Report Highlights

At the closing of the IWC7, participants were kindly instructed to complete an online evaluation of the event. This questionnaire comprised 14 general questions pertaining to conference logistics and 20 session evaluation fields. Fifty-nine out of 208 participants submitted an evaluation form. This accounts for 28.3% of conference participants. This percentage is consistent with the average response rate from all previous IWCs. Conference organizers extracted 166 comments from these evaluations that offer both constructive criticism and praise in conference implementation.



Overall, IWC7 participants considered the event a success, giving it a rating of 4.1 out of 5.0. Generally speaking, the major features of IWC7 scored highly in comparison to IWC average. However, when compared to IWC6, performance was down in each category. Conference logistics scored favourably (4.3 out of 5.0). Participants found the conference: was somewhat directly applicable to their work functions (3.97 out of 5.0); allowed for satisfactory networking time (3.84 out of 5.0); and somewhat increased participant understanding of economic valuation (3.49 out of 5.0) and general knowledge (3.96 out of 5.0).

However, there are still problems in terms of too many plenaries on good themes with insufficient time for discussion, coupled with excellent smaller workshops, too many of which are offered in parallel. The agenda is still perhaps too ambitious, and needs to be cut back to ensure adequate networking opportunities.

Evaluations from the last five IWCs (IWC3 to IWC7) offered standardized questions on which very rough comparisons among conferences can be made. These comparisons do not assume *ceteris paribus*. In the areas where comparison is possible, the IWC7 is the second highest rated conference overall, after IWC6, and scores significantly higher overall than IWC5, IWC4 and IWC3. The first two IWCs did not produce evaluation summaries. A needs assessment was produced for IWC2.

Recommendations for IWC8:

- There should be more time for participant workshops, there should be less of these workshops in parallel (or they should be repeated)
- Participants would like to see more discussion in plenaries
- Some participants would like to see more direct project manager input into the agenda well in advance of the conference as well as more concrete/visible outputs from all the sessions
- Participants would like to see more time for informal and structured networking
- Participants would like to see a lighter agenda, as the ambitious IWC7 agenda made for very long days
- Remove the break time project presentations from the agenda to enable networking opportunities. Find an alternative way for projects to communicate results.
- A stronger private sector program

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ANNEX I - Table Dialogues: Discussing Increased Portfolio Application of Economic Valuation to Achieve Desired Project Outcomes in Policy

What are and should be the main uses of economic valuation for policy making?

- Informed, evidence-based policymaking
- To facilitate and raise awareness. Education of the general public and policy makers
- Communication and education tool
- Help for communication, management, and restoration
- Help for establishment of PES
- Inform decision-makers on the costs and benefits of options for
- Establish poverty relevance (linkages)
- Providing objective data on costs and benefits to multiple parties, thereby promotes equity and “win win” situations
- Identifying those who benefit from natural resources and therefore should be responsible for paying for conservation
- Raising the issues of sustainability and conservation on national priorities
- Total valuations help explain the magnitude of values derived from ecosystems. They can help prioritize between different sectors
- Cost benefit analysis / project financing assessments / policy trade-off analyses [should be done at the outset of a project, or before a policy decision is made, to assess whether to proceed or not i.e. will the benefits be sufficient to justify the costs]
- Identify most significant aspects of each project i.e. which values/issues are the 'main course' and which are side dishes
- Understanding the human dimension
- Demonstrate the cost including the cost of “no action” to policymakers
- Governance circle, investments, risk assessment, taxes policies, aggregation of the knowledge, transforming subject to object
- Quantify costs and benefits for projects, for decisions, for budgets
- Prioritizing of investment. Prioritize actions (support allocation of funds), allocate resources vs. competing uses, but also support business case for fundraising
- Need to utilize the existing studies for investment options, e.g. restoration, pollution reduction.
- Need to respond to information policymakers require – at the PIF stage PES is central to providing information, allowing policymakers to redirect limited funding, restoration etc.
- Internalizing externalities (e.g., the polluter pays)
- Better understanding the value of natural capital
- Raise public awareness and justify a government intervention as it uses taxpayer's funds.
- Ultimately change public opinion regarding resource protection. Is the EV a useful tool?
- What is the future cost of ‘no action’ versus the proposed action? Promote the equitable distribution of goods and services from ecosystems

What are the main difficulties for using economic valuation for policy making?

- Values are locality specific
- Too few qualified practitioners
- Translating economic values into policy processes
- Uncertainties about results
- Availability of data. Results from other sectors e.g. statistical departments are often not accessible/available. But also a lack of data can be an excuse for more data and no decisions.
- Lack of forum or platform to discuss results
- Complexity of legal and intuitional framework / governance
- Difficulty to find recognized standards and methodologies. Lack of compatible methods (different methods = different results for same subject)
- Lack of understanding by (and dislike?) decision makers of EV methods and results. Lack of awareness (need for “demystification”)
- Conflict of interest where conservation goals and EV results clash with existing economic or political interests
- Lack of trust. Often there is a bias caused by vested interests and corrupt practices, which erode the validity of the study and reduce stakeholder confidence in the process
- Policymakers demand certainty. They tend to avoid risk, and may be unwilling to tackle issues with high uncertainty (e.g. impacts of climate change). Valuation methods often come with high error bars, and there are debates about the credibility of some methodologies
- Fear of the misuses of the results from these analyses
- Limited capacity. There is little appreciation of what the tools actually do
- Making it relevant/understood in policy (translating and operationalizing)
- It may promote change where change is not needed (may generate conflicts and perverse outcomes)
- It is not practical, too abstract

- Using it does not necessarily bridge the communication gap
- It lacks scientific credibility
- It is difficult to bring sectors together
- Technical feasibility
- “Getting the full picture”
- Lack of human capacity
- Posing the right question
- Lack of accepting culture
- Often remains a political process
- There is a need to identify what the EV is designed to achieve and to show that it is a transparent, believable study
- The methodology has to be replicable and evidently valid, however the results may only be valid for a few months – hence action may cost more than the EV study estimate.
- Need to prioritize at national and then international levels
- There is a need to identify what the EV is designed to achieve and to show that it is a transparent, believable study
- The cost issue is a problem – who will pay? Are qualified people available to carry out the study? What happens if the results are controversial? If difficult to prove will further costly studies be needed?

How to improve the use of economic valuation for policymaking – practical steps

- Design incentives for the incorporation of economic valuation of ecosystem services into policy processes
- Systematic application of economic valuation approaches
- Establishment of dialogue mechanism between scientists and policymakers
- Improve data
- Identify and promote a network of political “champions of EV”
- Promote high quality studies done with limited time and resources as these are in demand
- Educate decision makers of the credibility and benefits of EV
- Standardize to a common methodology /metrics to streamline the valuation process and compare across sites. [Consider using some of the software toolkits that have been developed to facilitate this e.g. InVEST, ARIES]
- Remember that not everything can be reduced to monetary / financial terms ... e.g. social issues also important
- Communicate the results in appropriate ways. Need to translate results into a form accessible for policymakers and for the private sector (note the emphasis on private sector here; they are a relevant additional audience wherever we refer to ‘policymakers’). [Indeed it’s not enough to be ‘accessible’, the communications need to be targeted to the needs of the audience, and to the processes they are trying to influence]
- Capacity building at all levels (including policy makers)
- Demonstrate “what’s it for me?” to all stakeholders
- The GEF should provide a clear valuation methodology, which should be based on an ecosystem approach and does not allow different interpretations. This methodology should be used by GEF projects and distributed to governments.
- A target and a scale of economic valuation should be clarified in the project document
- EV should be done separately in countries, not for whole basin
- Mainstream into broader economic assessments
- Objective studies
- Use the data at the PIF stage, use basic analysis, qualitative and quantitative to come up with the key issues.
- We should always be working with specific questions and issues, e.g. demonstration projects – link economic valuation to specific objectives.
- We need manuals with the information available, where managers can be clearly guided on process for making decisions into what aspects to investigate. These should be separate but with a clear link to the TDA Manual.
- Promote acceptance of the concept
- Compare it to other options for solving environmental problems
- Use a national to regional approach
- Need to be flexible
- Use education and outreach
- Focus on cost
- Make EV mandatory?
- Make sure that good examples (success stories, showcase studies with detailed cost benefit analyses) are available
- Involve policymakers and stakeholders in the process rather than simply presenting them with the results. Ideally a multi-sectoral (cross political party) committee should be involved at the start.
- The EV study should be based on a clearly defined and agreed need
- Ensure that the results are delivered to all stakeholders as soon as possible so as to gain further feedback and ‘buy-in’ to the EV process
- Avoid micro EV repeated over several states, as the results may contradict each other