

E-Fora Dialogue Summary Aquifer Theme

Aquifer Facilitators 7th Intervention 6 June 2005<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

Dear Colleagues;

1. A 1st phase of the e-fora and milestone could be seen as completed and passed , as we have today, 6 June submitted the E-for a Dialogue Summaries to the IW-LEARN and the IWC3 Organizers; and we think quite satisfactorily; with 44 participant's communications, active discussions of specific issues as legal and institutional frameworks, and priority issues and approaches at project level based on the participation of several of the operational aquifer projects, supplemented with 7 supporting facilitator's regular interventions.

2. The report will be used as the basis for the Groundwater Sessions in Salvador and for the development of the Structured Learning Plan to 2007 that will also be raised and projected in Salvador. It is therefore important to activate the dialogue and to address and discuss the gaps in priority issues that have not been sufficiently elaborated in the E-fora to date: These include above all M&E, with M&E Indicators applicable to aquifer/groundwater projects

3. Your communications on M&E and M&E Indicators for aquifer projects and groundwater components are invited. I would like to provide some directions, and to stimulate homogenous approaches and integration, using GEF jargon, and drawing upon the LME approach, for aspects to be considered for M&E.

1. GEF needs to develop a simple, concise handbook for aquifer project development (including preparation of TDA/SAP), with clear-cut guidelines, and transparent decision-making; Implementing Agencies need to harmonize their procedures as well.

2. GEF needs to support mechanisms for sharing information between aquifer programmes on implementation, strategies for mitigating threats, and trends in the state of the environment, to realize full power of aquifer approach in addressing issues on a global scale/ in developing country aquifers .

3. GEF needs to factor in appropriate time scales in assessing design of aquifer projects and allocating support. Ecosystem-based management might require two phases:

Organizational/early Implementation phase
Operational phase

This should provide adequate time to:

- (a) Demonstrate socio-economic benefits
- (b) Establish basis for sustainable financing mechanisms, e.g., through fees for use of ecosystem goods and services
- (c) Apply a system of indicators for assessing changing states of ecosystems

4. There is a need to improve valuation of ecosystem goods and services within an aquifer system in assessing costs and benefits of management decisions and to make economic arguments for interventions to stakeholders and decision-makers. This will help sustain political will beyond the life of the project.

5. GEF and IAs need to strengthen incorporation of performance and outcome indicators at project and program level for demonstrating progress toward achieving Project Objectives and Global Environmental Goals, and justifying continued support for programs from shareholders.

6. GEF needs to incorporate WSSD targets for ecosystem-based aquifer management, into its performance and evaluation monitoring programs.

Your communications on M&E are kindly invited.

Best Regards

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