



Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the UNEP/GEF GIWA Newsletter. The newsletter will be issued regularly in the future giving highlights and up to date news to readers on the development of the GIWA project. It will also be available on our web site



Project Manager
Dag Daler

The GIWA project has gained incredibly momentum during the last months and is now progressing ahead at full speed. Being the Project Manager I am proud of the effort done by the GIWA Co-ordination Office in Kalmar. I also invite all of our readers to visit us on the GIWA web site <http://www.giwa.net>. You will find us under the GIWA Team heading.

In this newsletter you will also find the latest news on the development of the GIWA Network and the GIWA Methodology and the Methods Peer Review process which is now started.

Finally I would like to welcome our new staff:

Dr. Elina Rautalahti-Miettinen who has joined the GIWA Core Team in Kalmar as the Northern Hemisphere Co-ordinator, and Dr. Kim Prochazka who has joined the University of the Western Cape host of Sub-regional Task Force for The Benguela Current Region.

Dag Daler, GIWA Project Manager

1st GIWA General Assembly

The 1st UNEP/GEF GIWA General Assembly will be held in Kalmar on 16-18 June 2001. The meeting will gather Megaregional and Subregional groups involved in the assessment work, institutions and actors interested in the GIWA work. It gives unique opportunities to explain and resolve questions about the GIWA methodology and will also provide a platform for discussions and problem solution regarding International Waters issues. UNEP, GEF, co-operating agencies, donors and stakeholders will be given presentations of the GIWA achievements and assessment results so far. The meeting will give special emphasis to GIWA's role on the international waters arena and the cooperation with UN system and ongoing assessments.

Our aim is that the General Assembly meeting will glue the GIWA Network together and can promise that it will be of high interest to institutional and network participants thereby strengthening the overall GIWA process. At the Assembly there will also be a possibility to join a scientific session chaired by the University of Kalmar. Invitations and a draft agenda will be ready for distribution in March.

GIWA Methods ready for Peer Review

The GIWA Assessment Methodology and Assessment Protocol, developed in co-operation with University of Plymouth, University of East Anglia and individual consultants, is now ready for a thorough peer review.

As the assessment methodology constitute a key component in the GIWA process, the GIWA Core Team needs to feel fully confident that it is meeting the requirements needed and that it is scientifically credible. It is also crucial that the methodology is acceptable to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and in accordance with the instructions given in the GIWA Project Document.

A team of peer reviewers have been appointed and is at present working. An international Peer Review Board, chaired by the University of Kalmar, will in cooperation with the GIWA Core Team compile the result of peer reviewers and bring these back to the Methods Task Team. The Peer Review Board will meet on 2 March.

(See also Open Peer Review on following page)

Cooperation with UNESCO and WWAP/WWDR

Dr Klaus Topfer, Executive Director of UNEP and Dr K Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO have agreed to start a process to achieve collaboration on Water programs. GIWA has therefore met with representatives of the World Water Assessment Program and agreed to cooperate within fields of mutual interest. In particular, GIWA will be a contributing partner to the World Water Development Report. GIWA and WWAP will also collaborate on case studies, and GIWA will take the lead in one or more case studies. GIWA and WWAP will keep transparent lines of communication on progress of our respective programs.

Status of the GIWA Network

First Contract Signed

An agreement covering the GIWA Subregional assessments for a substantial part of the Subregions in Australia and Southeast Asia has been signed between Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) based at the James Cook University (JCU), and GIWA. CRC has been set up to undertake integrated programs of applied research and development, training and extension. It has close links with the research community in Australia, in particular the JCU and Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). CRC has agreed to coordinate and, together with scientists and institutions in Indonesian and other countries in Southeast Asia, carry out the assessments in the South China Sea Region, Sulu-Celebes Seas Region and Indonesian Seas Region. In addition, CRC will carry out the assessments in North Australian Shelf Region, Coral Sea Basin Region, Great Barrier Reef Region, Great Australian Bight Region and Tasman Sea Region as in kind contributions.

Through this agreement, the assessments in a substantial number of Subregions in the Megaregion are underway.

Subregional Task Force No 44, The Benguela Current Region

An agreement has been reached with Prof Derek Keats International Ocean Institute at Southern Africa University of the Western Cape to be Focal point and undertake the GIWA assessment in Region No 44, the Benguela Current Region.

GIWA Methods applied in GEF Projects

On request the GIWA Causal Chain Methodology has been made available to two GEF projects for application in two regions. The projects needed methodology input for analysing the societal root causes to environmental problems and the GIWA Core Team decided to make the Causal Chain methodology available.

As the GEF projects will have the results already before March 2001 they will be able report to GIWA on their experiences before the Peer Review Board meeting. This means that results and experiences from GEF projects could be used as an input to the Methods Peer Review. The GIWA Core Team is looking forward to the reports from the GEF projects applying the draft Causal Chain methodology.

News on the GIWA web site

The GIWA Core team has gradually up-dated the GIWA web site. New in early autumn Region-specific links were added to respective Subregion and a new global map of the GIWA regions was presented in October.

The GIWA web site is designed to enable smooth downloading even in areas poorly connected to Internet. Our strategy is that further web site development should be co-ordinated in close co-operation with the UNEP.net initiative.

We expect a rapid development of the GIWA web site in the near future with additional region specific information, interactive maps with socio-economic and environmental information, the final methodology and information on the GIWA Network, the GIWA Catalogue etc. You are all welcome to have a look and to contribute information to the web site.

Open Methods Peer Review on GIWA web site

On Tuesday 11 December a special Open Peer Review Site was opened to enable individual specialists, scientist NGOs and others to view and comment on the developed GIWA methodology. The Open Peer review site holds the full assessment methodology and the instructions for its application. The GIWA Core Team invites all to participate in the methods peer review!

GIWA Research School

The University of Kalmar has appointed an interdisciplinary group within the university to do the detailed planning for a Research School focusing on GIWA issues. International PhD and master level programs will constitute backbones of the Research School. For more information contact Dr Ulf Lidman, Director of Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences at ulf.lidman@hik.se.

GIWA Events and Milestones

- In October 2000 major up-dates were made of the GIWA web site www.giwa.net. In particular region specific information was added to
- In November 2000 the GIWA Assessment Methodology Peer Review started
- In December 2000 the Casual Chain part of the testing of the GIWA Methodology in Gulf of Thailand Region and Baltic Sea Region will be ready and reported.
- The GIWA Methods Peer Review Board will meet in Kalmar on 2 March 2001 under leadership of the University of Kalmar
- The GIWA Steering Group will meet in Kalmar on 3-5 March 2001
- First UNEP/GEF GIWA General Assembly will be held in Kalmar in June 2001