UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme - IHP

Groundwater Governance Project: Launch of Regional Consultations

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UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme 2008-2013

Water dependencies: Systems under stress and Societal responses

Theme 1 Global Change, Watersheds and Aquifers
Theme 2 Governance and Socio-economics
Theme 3 Ecohydrology and Environmental Sustainability
Theme 4 Water Quality, Human Health and Food Security
Groundwater Governance:

A global framework for country action

The IHP in the consideration of emerging problems posed by global changes emphasizes the interdependence of water and society, including water governance, culture, ethics.
Why groundwater is a priority?

Globally, over 2 billion people rely on groundwater for their daily supply.
- 97% of Fresh water of the planet are contained in Aquifers. Groundwater flow doesn’t recognize political boundaries.
What UNIT?

• River basins
• Aquifers
do not coincide

What INSTITUTION?
HOW to achieve IWRM?
Dependency on groundwater

- Many countries still lack
  - coherent policies and strategies for the management of aquifers and groundwater resources
  - adequate legal settings
  - and institutional arrangements to administer related legislation

Jean Margat, UNESCO-BRGM 2008
Groundwater Resources of the World
Groundwater Governance Project Objective

To slow or reverse trends in groundwater depletion and degradation through improved governance.

- Project Focus: Human behaviours that impact groundwater quantity and quality.
- Project Target: Resource management processes & institutions to millions of individual users and polluters.
Project Components

- Component 1: Baseline – state of groundwater governance
- Component 2: Regional Consultations leading to A Global Diagnostic
- Component 3: Shared Vision and Global Framework for Action
- Component 4: Communications Strategy
• GEF Grant: USD 1.75 Million
• Co-finance: USD 2.7 Million
• TOTAL 4.45 Million
• Time Frame: 3 years
Regional Consultations

Five regional consultations
UNESCO-IHP intergovernmental regional mechanism
One will also invite to debate the private sector, aimed at exploring opportunities for partnerships, information sharing, and support.

All will contribute to prepare:
Global Groundwater Diagnostic,
Global “Framework of Action” (FA)
The Regional Consultations are FUNDAMENTAL to:

- Build agreed consensus on definitions of groundwater governance
- Learn lessons from representative set of regional case studies
- Compile a Global Groundwater Diagnostic report
- Compile a Global “Framework of Action” (FA)
- Mainstream viable groundwater management practice in GEF Programs
- Inform the UNESCO IHP Intergovernmental Council and
Regional Consultation Workshops

**Essential feedback from participants on**: Regional Consultations

- From regional characteristics to the consensus on the vision (National and Regional Case Studies, inputs to the Thematic Papers)

- Global Groundwater Diagnostic prepared through Regional Consultations. Final Report as a technical basis for the visioning process and the Framework for Action

- Regional needs: lessons learnt, to be shared with other regions, challenges and achievements – What is needed to improve and Call to UN and the GEF (possible identification of regional or sub-regional projects)?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Hosting country</th>
<th>UNESCO-IHP – Regional Focal Point</th>
<th>Principal Regional Partner</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>Montevideo - Uruguay</td>
<td>IHP LAC – Montevideo Office</td>
<td>Organization of American States (OAS)</td>
<td>18 - 20 April 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arab Countries</td>
<td>Amman - Jordan</td>
<td>IHP Arab Countries - Amman Office</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)</td>
<td>8 - 10 October 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia (East/South East)</td>
<td>Beijing - China</td>
<td>IHP Asia – Beijing Office</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)</td>
<td>December 2012</td>
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<td>Europe (including SEE Central Asia) + Private Sector</td>
<td>Amsterdam - Netherlands</td>
<td>IHP Europe – Venice Office + the Netherlands National Committee</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</td>
<td>1st quarter 2013</td>
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Actions expected at REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS:

- Take stock from lessons learnt in the regions;
- Raise awareness and promote the global groundwater agenda;
- Allow multi-sectoral role players to engage on groundwater issues;
- Discuss issues that arise from the regional specific characteristics, challenges and priorities in order to using case studies prepared by the national experts to contribute to prepare the Global Groundwater Diagnostic;
- Strengthen national and regional participation and foster contribution to the project results;
- Strengthen ownership of the Framework of Action (FA) throughout different regions;
- Build partnerships among the collaborating project agencies, cross-sectoral stakeholders, decision-makers and specialists.
The target audience for each Regional Consultation

National and Regional governmental representatives
- Regional economic commissions
- Regional development banks
- FAO Offices
- IAH regional President and network
- Regional academy and researchers
- Users associations
- Regulatory associations
- Private sector
- Professional regional associations
- NGOs
- Civil society – local level - Media

Participants: 60
The main PARTNERS - Regional Consultations:

- Ministries of the country hosting the consultation and providing organisational support and cooperating in the preparation of the programme of the event
- Main regional intergovernmental organizations;
- Main regional and national research institutes.
DURATION and METHODOLOGY

For three days:

➤ First day:
• Plenary
  • Presentation of the project objective by Project Team
  • Presentation of concepts on groundwater governance and thematic papers;
  • Key note presentations and
  • Panels debate.

➤ Second day:
• Plenary
  • Presentation from regional and national representatives of cases studies on national and regional groundwater governance;
  • Discussions in plenary debates;
  • Rapporteurs compiling Note.
Third day

• **9h Morning session: Working groups on thematic issues:**
  - Concepts for groundwater policy and recommendations for the Framework of Action (FA)
  - Legal and institutional frameworks and recommendations for the Framework of Action (FA)
  - Studies and research – gaps, challenges and priorities - Aquifers characteristics and specific governance requirements - and recommendations for the Framework of Action (FA)
  - Capacity and education needs for good groundwater governance and recommendations for the Framework of Action (FA)
  - Economics of the invisible resource and recommendations for the Framework of Action (FA)

  - **12 h Meeting of rapporteurs to coordinate**

• **16h Afternoon session: Plenary**
  - Presentation by rapporteurs of working group and recommendations
  - Wrap up and Conclusion

18H 30 Press conference
UNESCO Water Portal
http://www.unesco.org/water

IN FOCUS

October 20-25: World Population Awareness Week 2003 focuses on water
This year, World Population Awareness Week (WPAW), initiated by the
Population Institute in 1985 and observed October 20 to 25, focuses on water scarcity. The theme, "Water: the 21st Century Crisis", reminds us that over the next 20 years, the world's population will increase from 6 billion to around 7.2 billion, with increasing competition for available water resources. By 2025, it is estimated that some 30 percent of the world's population in 50 countries will suffer from water scarcity.

[Read the manual for WPAW 2003, in PDF]
[For more information visit the official site or contact field2@populationinstitute.org]

NEWS

SOF October 8th: International Day for Disaster Reduction
The theme for this year's International Day for Disaster Reduction, celebrated on October 8th, is 'turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development'. According to the UN Secretary-General, "this theme reminds us, during the International Year of Freshwater, that the task is not just to preserve water resources to sustain life, but also to reduce the capacity of water to take life away." Today, more than 90% of all disasters around the world are water-related. Under the leadership of the
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign looks at how to cope with water-related hazards, highlighting the importance of public awareness and reducing the impacts of these hazards.

[Read more about the initiative, in PDF]
• THANK YOU

• MERCI

• MUCHAS GRACIAS