



## **International Hydrological Programme**

18<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council  
(Paris, 9 – 14 June 2008)

# **COOPERATION WITH OTHER UNESCO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES**

Item 10.3 of the provisional agenda

### **SUMMARY**

This document summarizes specific activities of cooperation with other UNESCO environmental programmes and, subsequently, those that also involve an intersectoral component.

The Council may wish to comment on the activities carried out.

## COOPERATION WITH MAB

1. The cooperation between the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) is clearly expressed through the implementation of the joint IHP/MAB Main Line of Action, which continued since the 2002-2003 biennium, titled *Managing Land-Water-Habitat interactions through an Ecosystem Approach* in the 2006-2007 biennium. The cooperation up to the recently concluded biennium encompassed a wide range of fields geared towards incorporating the ecosystem approach in water resources management, with emphasis on ecohydrology, the urban environment, mountains and drylands. Detailed information about the activities on ecohydrology and urban environment that are jointly implemented can be found in IHP/IC-XVIII/Inf.9. Specific attention has been given to the relationship between water and biodiversity, as well as to landforms and hydrological systems. In this context, IHP works with MAB on the informal working group on biodiversity, as well as on the joint main line of action focused on enhancing linkages between cultural and biological diversity as a key basis for sustainable development, both of which are being coordinated by MAB. Cooperation will continue in the 2008-2009 biennium through other modalities given that the programmatic structure of the Science Sector has been modified. One Main Line of Action encompasses three international scientific programmes: IHP, MAB and the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), but none of the activities is formally a joint IHP/MAB responsibility though their complementarity and potential for cooperation are high.

2. The Madrid Action Plan for the period from 2008 to 2013, agreed upon at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Biosphere Reserves (Madrid, 4-8 February 2008), states among its actions enhancing the widespread use of Biosphere Reserves by other UNESCO intergovernmental scientific programmes such as the IHP for research, information generation and policy advice.

3. Related to urban environments, IHP implemented a project on Aquatic Habitats in Integrated Urban Water Management in cooperation with MAB. This joint project aimed at improving our understanding of aquatic habitats, related ecosystem goods and services, and conservation and sustainable use, with a special focus on their integration into urban water management. Within the framework of the project, three expert group IHP/MAB workshops were organized in Lodz, Poland (September 2005), in Verona, Italy (May 2006), and Vienna, Austria (December 2006). As the main output of the project, the book *Aquatic Habitats in Sustainable Urban Water Management* was published in the UNESCO-IHP Urban Water series. The book reviews basic concepts and challenges in urban aquatic habitats, as well as strategies for their management integration, and examines technical measures related to habitats management and rehabilitation, along with their incorporation into urban planning and their role in human health, and practical approaches to solving them through case studies from around the globe.

4. With regard to desertification, IHP contributed to the books *The Future of Arid Lands – Revisited* and the proceedings of the MAB-coordinated international conference *Future of Drylands* (Tunis, 19-21 June 2006). IHP cooperated with MAB in the organization of the conference, mainly as the lead organizer of the session on Hydrology and Water Management.

5. Concerning mountains, collaboration between IHP and MAB focused on a project on *Global Change in Mountain Biosphere Reserves* to assess the impact and consequences of global climate change on the biophysical environment and socio-economic conditions of mountain people. A regional workshop titled *Assessment of Snow-Glacier and Water Resources in Asia* was organized from 28-30 November 2006 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The meeting brought together experts, academicians, government representatives and

international organizations from Asia, Europe and North America to discuss glacier retreat and its impact on water resources in Asia. Some funding to the workshop was provided under the IHP/MAB Joint Main Line of Action. The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) was the co-organizer of the workshop. The Russian version of the proceedings of the workshop was prepared in December 2007 and is to be printed in April 2008.

6. IHP and MAB supported jointly the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT), Ministry of Research and Technology (Indonesia) for the organization of the Seminar *Ecologically-based Planning towards Sustainable Cities*, Jakarta, Indonesia, 17 January 2007. The seminar was intended to promote the integration of ecological considerations in spatial planning process with regards to the creation of sustainable cities in Indonesia and to change ideas among stakeholders regarding the efforts to produce ecologically-based urban spatial planning in Indonesia in order to achieve sustainable cities. It was attended by 112 stakeholders related to spatial planning activities from government institutions, universities, NGOs, and urban and environmental analysts.

7. As a contribution to UNESCO's MAB-IHP Joint Programme on Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Community-Driven Management of Natural Resources in Micronesia, a national freshwater resource management study was developed and is funded by the Government of Japan and implemented in cooperation with the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). The study is closely linked to the And Atoll and Utwe Biosphere Reserves, offering experience based on these pilot sites on the potential of the Biosphere Reserve format for freshwater resource management in the small island context. IHP and MAB contributed to the water resources assessment of Siberut Island Biosphere reserve (Mentawai Islands, West Sumatra), with particular reference to the villages of Mailleppet and Rogdok, where captured springs were piped to supply water to approximately 1,000 people.

## **COOPERATION WITH IOC**

8. Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and IHP has recently focused on the evaluation of the horizontal water fluxes from the landmass to the ocean and submarine groundwater discharge in coastal areas in particular.

9. A preparatory grant of 50,000 US\$ was received in September 2006 by UNESCO-IOC from the Global Environment Facility for preparing a project on the Caspian Sea area, directed towards developing regional and national capacity for groundwater management in the coastal zone of the Caspian Sea. The project was developed jointly by IOC and IHP by consulting the representatives of the littoral countries (Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan) and involving experts from the region. With the support received, two technical meetings were organized: in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran in October 2006 and Paris, France in June 2007. The planned groundwater component was finally not approved for inclusion in the overall framework of the 3rd phase of the GEF-funded Caspian Environment Programme.

## **CO-OPERATION WITH IGCP**

10. In the 2006-2007 biennium, IHP supported the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), a joint programme of UNESCO's Division of Earth Sciences and the International Union of Geological Sciences' (IUGS), with approximately 70,000 US\$ towards the organization of workshops on geoscience and hydrogeological topics. The development of activities that form IHP's contribution as the key partner to the European Space Agency to

the TIGER initiative, which is aimed at developing sustainable earth observation information services for integrated water resources management in Africa, has been carried out in close consultation with IGCP. IGCP represents UNESCO in the field of geosciences and on different fora related to the global coordination of earth observation activities and promotes also IHP's relevant activities in these circles. Among such tasks, IGCP coordinates UNESCO's inputs to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEO-GEOSS) and specifically co-chairs the GEO Capacity Building Committee. IGCP has, for example, provided access to its contact network related to capacity building in satellite remote sensing for a targeted distribution of the technical manual *Remote Sensing Applications to Groundwater* published in 2007. UNESCO/IUGS Geological Application of Remote Sensing (GARS) network also served the distribution of the above-mentioned manual.

## **ACTIVITIES INVOLVING SEVERAL UNESCO PROGRAMMES OR SECTORS**

11. The six Chairpersons of UNESCO's intergovernmental/international natural and social science programmes (IGCP, IHP, IOC, MAB, IBSP and MOST) met in Paris from 22 to 23 October 2007. A Joint Communication (see Annex) was delivered to the Science Commission session of the 34<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO, emphasizing that they intended to strengthen and enhance their shared role as a scientific advisory body to UNESCO in cooperation with the Internal Task Force established by the Director-General.

12. As part of the IHP Urban Water Management Programme's intersectoral collaboration, an IHP-nominated representative participated in the joint UNESCO/UN-HABITAT Networking Event on *Urban Policies and the Right to the City* held on 22 June 2006 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Urban Forum in Vancouver (19-23 June 2006). The IHP publication *Urban Water Conflicts – An analysis of the origins and nature of water-related unrest and conflicts in the urban context* was also presented on this occasion.

13. In cooperation with the Social and Human Sciences, Education and Culture sectors, IHP will participate in the Fourth World Urban Forum (WUF-IV) to be held in Nanjing, China, 3-7 November 2008, with a UNESCO network event entitled *Education towards Sustainable Urban Development: building up citizenship, enhancing governance, developing partnerships and reinventing solidarity*. This UNESCO event is an intersectoral event with contributions from all relevant sectors. IHP will contribute to the UNESCO networking event at WUF-IV with an expert participation, presenting on enhanced urban water governance for a sustainable city, and the launching of new books of UNESCO-IHP Urban Water Series.

14. The 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Bureau noted with appreciation the recent developments in the cooperation of IHP with other UNESCO international programmes devoted to various aspects of sustainable development as well as with other Sectors of UNESCO, reported on above. It emphasized that IHP should continue cooperating with other environmental and science programmes of UNESCO, where appropriate, in areas of IHP's mandate.

ANNEX

**Joint Statement of the Chairpersons  
of the Six Intergovernmental/International Scientific Programmes  
to the Director-General and the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference**

**Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)  
International Basic Science Programme (IBSP)  
International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)  
International Hydrological Programme (IHP)  
Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)  
Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)**

Meeting of the Chairpersons  
(Paris, 22-23 October 2007)

Fully conscious that our meeting takes place at a key juncture for strengthening Science in UNESCO, given the will of the Organization's Member States to strengthen its action in these fields and to enable UNESCO to make significant contributions to United Nations wide initiatives in various critical domains,

I

1. We have taken full cognizance of the recommendations of the Review Committee on Major Programmes II (Natural Sciences) and III (Social and Human Sciences), of the comments of UNESCO's Director-General and of the decision of the Executive Board thereon (176 EX/7), and the views of each programme on the Review Committee's recommendations as expressed to the Director-General.
2. We have taken note of the follow-up ensured to date to those recommendations as reflected in the draft 34 C/4 and 34 C/5 and, in particular, in the implementation plan submitted by the Director-General to the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference in document 34 C/13, on the basis of the work of the internal Task Force he established in 2007.
3. We have taken into consideration of the nature, scope and modalities of UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology in Africa as approved by UNESCO's Executive Board at its 177<sup>th</sup> session.
4. We have also taken note that UNESCO is currently engaged in the development of an intersectoral and integrated strategy on UNESCO's contribution to dealing with major challenges relating to global climate change, an issue of major concern to all the intergovernmental/international scientific programmes.
5. In that context, we wish to underline the need to take fully into account for future action the important achievements of UNESCO's ISPs in the fields of the oceans, basic sciences, geosciences, freshwater, ecology and biodiversity and social transformations, for the advancement of scientific research, science-policy linkages, the strengthening of capacities, sustainable development, and the achievement of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

6. We emphasize that while the achievement of the objectives set out in the major programming documents referred to above could certainly place UNESCO in a much better position in the field of the natural and the social and human sciences, it also requires a higher and sustainable level of staffing and funding over the period covered by the Draft Medium-Term Strategy.

## II

In the light of the above considerations, we the Chairpersons of the ISPs have decided:

7. to strengthen and enhance our shared role as a scientific advisory body to UNESCO as a whole, given the intrinsic intersectoral nature of the strategic objectives of the draft Medium-Term Strategy and the Review Committee's recommendations, in close cooperation with the internal Task Force established by the Director-General and the relevant international organizations with which UNESCO has a long-standing and fruitful cooperation;
8. to contribute to meeting the objectives of the implementation plan of the Review Committee's recommendations as submitted by the Director-General in 34C/13, ensuring close interaction among the different scientific programmes in order to establish the appropriate specific synergies, ensure their sustainability and enhance their impact, in particular on issues relating to:
  - Climate change and its consequences,
  - Natural and human-induced hazards and disasters,
  - Human well-being,
  - Environmental sustainability (MDG 7),
  - Management and sustainable use of natural resources;
9. to strengthen the leading contribution of the Intergovernmental/International Scientific Programmes to United Nations wide initiatives, such as UN-Oceans, UN-Water and UN-Energy, the follow-up of the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development, the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, the production of the World Water Development Reports, and the development of Tsunami early warning systems;
10. to contribute to the strengthening of science education, and education for sustainable development, human and institutional capacities, the knowledge society and the linkages between science and policy and the decision-making process;
11. to contribute to establishing integrated science policies through close coordination and synergies at the international level and in particular at the national level, at this critical time when countries are giving high priority to developing science-based decision making, and in that framework strengthen the response to the needs of Africa as expressed in the Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology in Africa;
12. to strengthen the delivery of ISPs services and products at the regional and national levels, through close interaction and cooperation with the National Commissions for UNESCO, the ISPs National Committees, category 1 and 2 centres and UNESCO Chairs;

13. to hold periodic consultations throughout the 2008-2009 biennium on progress achieved towards the fulfillment of those major commitments, and also with a view to responding to future challenges to UNESCO's action in the field of science.

**Chairpersons:**

Savithri Narayanan (IOC)  
Jens Jorgen Gaardhoje (IBSP)  
Sospeter M. Muhongo (IGCP)  
Benedito Braga (IHP)  
Zerihun Woldu (MAB)  
Zola Skweyiya (MOST)