

IV International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management, Thessaloniki, Greece

15th – 18th October 2008



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)



UNESCO Chair INWEB



UNESCO IHP-VII



Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas

First Announcement and Call for Papers



RATIONALE

Transboundary water resources are increasing in importance as sources of freshwater worldwide. As much as 80% of water resources in the Mediterranean region are shared between two or more countries, and in N. Africa and the Middle East, transboundary groundwaters are the most important source of freshwater. The 2003 UN Report (UN WWDR, 2003) entitled "Water for Life Water for People", listed 263 transboundary basins. These basins:

- Cover 45% of the land surface of the Earth;
- Affect 40% of the world's population;
- Account for approximately 80% of global river flow;
- Cross the political boundaries of 145 nations.

All available predictions agree that there is a growing water scarcity and it is estimated that within 25 years, two-thirds of the world's inhabitants will live in countries with serious water problems. Growing demand, inadequate water governance, excessive abstraction and climate change coupled with the fact the quality of water is deteriorating in many parts of the world due to pollution, has put both surface and groundwater resources under severe stress in many parts of the world. Transboundary water resources additionally face political, cultural and ethical challenges.

Scarcity leads to increasing competition among users. Cooperative arrangements, based on a multi-disciplinary approach integrating scientific, social, economic and institutional components, are crucial in order to jointly develop, manage and protect transboundary waters, to avoid conflict, to optimise the sustainable utilisation of these resources and to ensure water security.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The aim of the IV International Symposium on Transboundary Water Management (TWM IV) is threefold:

1. To assess the state of the art and the progress recently made in the sustainable management of transboundary waters by different disciplines such as law, socio-economics and water science.
2. To review current major international programmes concerned with the assessment and management of transboundary water resources.
3. To promote interdisciplinary approaches for integrated transboundary water resources management.



INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Ganoulis, J. (Chairperson)	UNESCO Chair INWEB, AUTH, Greece
Aureli, A. (Co-chairperson)	UNESCO-IHP
Al-Mooji, Y.	UN ESCWA
Amani, A.	UNESCO Accra
Angelidis, D.	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Appelgren, B.	UNESCO
Bernardini, F.	UNECE
Bonacci, O.	University of Split, Croatia
Brilly, M.	University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Burchi, S.	FAO
Donzier, J-F.	INBO
Donoso, M-C.	UNESCO Montevideo
Fried, J.	University of California, Irvine, USA and UNESCO
Kotsovinos, N.	Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
Koutitas, C.	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Krestenifis, Y.	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Kukuric, N.	IGRAC
Makarigakis, A.	UNESCO Windhoek
Margat, J.	BRGM, France
Martin-Bordes, J-L.	UNESCO IHP
Mendler, J-R.	GEF - IW LEARN
Merla, A.	GEF Consultant
Miletto, M.	OAS
Monget, J-M.	Ecole des Mines de Paris, France
Pennequin, D.	BRGM, France
Puri, S.	IAH
Pypaert, P.	UNESCO BRESCE
Renaud, F.	United Nations University, EHS, Germany
Rivera, A.	Geological Survey of Canada
Salame, L.	UNESCO PCCP
Salem, O.	RCSARM, Lybia
Sokona, Y.	OSS, Tunisia
Stephan, R.	UNESCO IHP
Stournaras, G.	University of Athens, Greece
Valdes, J.	University of Arizona, USA
Yamada, C.	Special Rapporteur to the UN ILC
Zingari, P-C.	European Observatory of Mountain Forests, France

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Anagnostopoulos, P.,	AUTH, Greece
Angelidis, D.	AUTH, Greece
Ganoulis, J.	UNESCO Chair INWEB, AUTH, Greece
Kolokytha, E.	AUTH, Greece
Quartano, K.	UNESCO Chair INWEB

SYMPOSIUM THEMES

The **main topic** of the symposium is Transboundary Surface Waters and Shared Aquifers. The following, **specific topics** will be developed in depth either for surface and groundwaters separately, or in combination. Papers will be presented and discussed in separate thematic workshops followed by plenary debates and exchanges of views on inter and trans-disciplinary approaches.

- Common Monitoring Networks
- Sharing Data and Information
- Remote Sensing, Cooperative Modelling & Simulation
- International Political Issues, Decision Making & Conflict Resolution
- Involving Stakeholders in Transboundary Areas
- Institutional & Legal Issues
- Transboundary Water Economics
- Planning under Climate Change
- EU Policy in Transboundary Water Issues
- Education and Training, with an emphasis on shared aquifers

CALL FOR PAPERS

The structure of the symposium will facilitate both in-depth disciplinary workshop presentations and discussions, and plenary interdisciplinary exchange of views and suggestions for effective regional actions on sustainable TWM. The working language will be English.

Extended abstracts up to 3 pages on the above mentioned themes should be submitted by 30th May 2008. After review by special expert groups, authors of the accepted abstracts will be notified by 15th July 2008. Authors will also be informed about the type of presentation, which will either be oral or a poster. The accepted abstracts will be published in a CD Rom before the symposium and full papers in a printed volume afterwards.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of abstracts [Form A](#) and pre-registration [Form B](#)
Notification of acceptance
Second announcement and final programme

30 April 2008
30 June 2008
20 September 2008

CONTACT DETAILS

For submission of abstracts and papers [Form A](#)
Ganoulis, J. e-mail: iganouli@civil.auth.gr

Pre-registration [Form B](#) and other organisational matters
Conference Secretariat (see below)

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Topline Travel & Tourism
27 Tsimiski Steet
54624 Thessaloniki, Greece
Tel: (+30) 2310 252 103 or (+30) 2310 252 105
Fax: (+30) 2310 252 104 or (+30) 2310 252 107
E-mail: info@toplinetravel.gr



SIDE EVENT

UNESCO Pilot course on

Transboundary Groundwater Management

13th-14th October 2008

Thessaloniki, Greece

A one and a half-day course will take place before the start of the main symposium, commencing in the afternoon of Monday 13th October and finishing on Tuesday 14th October 2008.

The course is being developed by a UNESCO IHP Task Force on Transboundary Groundwater Education. It is intended to promote inter-disciplinary and inter-professional practical tools to facilitate concrete responses to transboundary groundwater sustainable management issues.

A range of topics will be presented and discussed, carefully selected from hydrogeology, water management, economy, law, engineering and political science. The selection will depend on the available time and current priorities. The course will be largely based on practical examples from different parts of the world, and will emphasise the need for communication between the different possible actors of transboundary groundwater management, including language and cultural dimensions.

Lecturers will be members of the Task Force, whose names will be given in the next announcement.

Participants of the symposium are invited to attend the course, which is free of charge, but limited to 30 persons.

For further details please contact:

J. Fried: jfried@uci.edu

J.L. Martin-Bordes (UNESCO-IHP): jl.martin@unesco.org



Kriopigi, Halkidiki



Thessaloniki's main square



Prespes Lakes



Mount Olympus



Monastery on Mount Athos

Greece is a visitor's paradise with a wealth of natural and historical attractions. The city of **Thessaloniki**, is the country's second largest city, with 2,300 years of recorded history, and is famous for its Byzantine churches and Ottoman buildings. Its culture, heritage and history reflect its position at the crossroads of east and west. With traditional taverns and coffee shops spilling out onto the pavements, it offers visitors a lively experience.

It is an hour's drive from the peninsula of **Halkidiki**, a summer paradise of unspoilt beaches and small fishing villages, and two hours from **Mount Athos**, also known as the Holy Mountain, where 20 major monasteries have been located since Byzantine times. Also easily accessible are the archaeological site of **Vergina**, **Mount Olympus**, **Prespes Lakes** and the monasteries of **Meteora**.



Monastery in Meteora



Thessaloniki, White Tower



Archaeological site of Vergina