

Preface

Globally, people are becoming increasingly aware of the degradation of the world's water bodies. The need for a holistic assessment of transboundary waters in order to respond to growing public concern and provide advice to governments and decision makers regarding management of aquatic resources has been recognised by several international bodies focusing on global environment. To compile a global overview, the Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) has been implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in conjunction with the University of Kalmar, Sweden (www.giwa.net).

The importance of the GIWA has been underpinned by the UN Millennium Development Goals adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000 and the Declaration from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The development goals aimed to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by the year 2015. WSSD also calls for integrated management of land, water and living resources and, by 2010 the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystems should be implemented by all countries that are party to the declaration.

This report presents the results of GIWA assessments of the three Greenlandic GIWA regions – Arctic Ocean (1), East Greenland Shelf (15), and West Greenland Shelf (16). The report is the Greenland contribution to GIWA and it is funded by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency as part of the environmental support programme DANCEA – Danish Cooperation for Environment in the Arctic. The report has been carried out in collaboration between National Environmental Research Institute (contractor), Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, and UCC-Water.

The report is based on the GIWA Methodology: “STAGE 1: Scaling and Scoping” and “Causal chain analyses” (see www.giwa.net).

Two task team meetings were held in 2003:

- 1) August 15, at the National Environmental Research Institute in Roskilde, Denmark, and
- 2) September 3, at the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources in Nuuk, Greenland.

A number of selected experts were participating in these task team meetings. Other selected experts were unable to attend to the meetings. The experts consulted for inputs and reviews of this report are presented in Annex 1. The report was peer-reviewed by Dr. Henrik Sparholt and Dr. Raphael V. Vartanov.

The report has been compiled and edited by:

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