

# Preface

The GIWA region 27 covers the Gulf of California and its drainage basins. This report focuses on the Colorado River Basin with emphasis on the delta area. The report presents the results of research, information development and policy analysis. The methodology covers issues such as water availability, regional imbalances, relationships between water use and water quality, and alternative low-cost natural systems for treating wastewater. The papers range from addressing fundamental scientific questions regarding the linkages between land use and water quality, to the ecological impacts of excessive water consumption, to the feasibility of applying alternative treatment options.

The GIWA region 27 Task team, integrated from personnel of WWF Gulf of California Program, the Berkeley Public Policy team and personnel from the Instituto Nacional de Ecología (Mexico, City), conducted the research described in this report. During the GIWA workshops for the Scaling and Scoping held August 21-23, 2002 in Hermosillo, Son, Mexico and the Causal chain analysis and Policy options (April 7-9, 2003) the main thematic was based on problems concerning transboundary issues in international waters and how to apply the results from scientific assessments to manage water resources.

The study makes use of the work of others, especially in its descriptions of the region and the issues that it faces. We are grateful for the cooperation and permission that have been granted by the region's planning agencies, the Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE), Mexico City Office, the Comisión Nacional del Agua (CNA), Gerencia Regional Peninsula de Baja California, Mexicali, and the Instituto del Medio Ambiente del Estado de Sonora (IMADES). We also appreciate the many persons from the study area who participated in the GIWA workshops, and those who provided invaluable guidance throughout the project.

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The information herein is believed to be reliable, but the assessors and their institutions do not warrant its completeness of accuracy. Opinions and estimates are the judgments of the research team. The sole purpose of this research is to provide information to the many stakeholders and jurisdictions of the region regarding issues, strategic planning choices, and their possible consequences related to the sharing of international waters.

While the scientific community still debates the meaning of international water management, the concerns of environmental institutions still rely on how to interact with the environmental impacts with scarce water resources of an unsustainable urban development.

