GIWA results presented at the Stockholm Water Symposium

Issues related to the destruction and degradation of ecosystems and overfishing stand out as the areas showing the most severe impacts on the environment. This first result of the GIWA assessment was presented at the Stockholm Water Symposium, where GIWA hosted a seminar on August 11, 2002.

Overexploitation of fisheries and related issues such as excessive destruction of bycatch and the use of destructive fishing techniques are considered the most severe issues in more sub-regions than any other environmental problem. This was described in the presentations made by Dr. Olof Lindén and Dr Juan Carlos Belaustegui-Góitia from the GIWA core team in Kalmar, Sweden. Dr. David Souter, also with the GIWA core team, informed about the environmental impacts of climate change.

The seminar was opened by Dr Klaus Töpfer, executive director of UNEP, who emphasized the importance of worldwide information networks on water-related issues.

The GIWA assessment throughout the world, done by local expert in the different sub-regions, was presented in a session on regional transboundary water systems. Dr. Igor Severskiy, Kazakhstan, described fresh-water shortage in Central Asia. Dr. Fred Bugenyi, Uganda, talked about the change of ecosystem in Lake Victoria waters. Dr. Marcia Marques, Brazil, gave a presentation of the root causes of pollution in South America. Dr. Kim Prochazka, South Africa, gave her views on the dams and the downstream impacts on the fresh water shortage in Southern Africa. Dr. Vadim Sokolov, Uzbekistan, described water resource management in Central Asia.
Dialogue on water at Kalmar symposium

A symposium with focus on the dialogue needed to make integrated water resources management possible was held in Kalmar August 18-22, 2002. The 110 participants representing countries around the world were invited to a reception at Kalmarsund Laboratory, hosted by GIWA, the University of Kalmar and Kalmar municipality. The Kalmar symposium was part of the international project “Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy“, HELP, and additional to the World Water Week in Stockholm. Discussions focused on increasing the dialogue between scientist, policy makers and stakeholders. The participants took great interest in the GIWA project when meeting with GIWA staff at the reception.

New at GIWA core team

The GIWA core team in the Kalmar office has new members. Dr. Ullali Zweifel is in charge of the project report, assisted by Malin Karlsson. New information officer is Elisabet Idermark. Raphael Magin is joining the staff to work with policy analysis.

Annual Report 2001

The GIWA Annual Report for 2001 has been distributed to a great number of members in the GIWA network worldwide. The Annual Report gives facts and figures on the activities during 2001 and also a presentation of the project methodology. If you are interested in a copy of the Annual Report 2001, send a message to elisabet.idermark@hik.se.

GIWA presentation in Johannesburg

The government of Sweden has invited GIWA to participate in the Swedish pavilion at the WaterDome, an event held in conjunction with the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September, 2002. GIWA is also represented in the UNEP/GPA H2O-pavilion at the WaterDome. “No water, no future” is the overall theme of the WaterDome, functioning as an exhibition and meeting place for public and private water organizations. Dr. Olof Lindén from the core team in Sweden will give presentation of the GIWA project in Johannesburg.

GIWA host is expanding

The department of Biology and Environmental Sciences at the University of Kalmar, hosting the GIWA office, has soon completed its new building. The new premises with classrooms, laboratories and offices are ready to use by spring 2003, adding new attraction to the already popular Swedish university. New students are now coming in as the university opens programs in GIWA-related subjects such as conservation biology and oceanography.

Methodology translations

The final version of the GIWA methodology for the remaining stages of the assessment is now available in English, Spanish and Russian.

Upcoming events….

17-18 September, 2002, in Kalmar, Sweden: GIWA 1st Economic Task Team Meeting
8-9 October, 2002, in Kalmar, Sweden: GIWA steering group meeting