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**Policy issues: state of the environment**

**Implementation of the water policy and strategy of the United Nations  
Environment Programme within the context of the medium-term  
strategy: Synopsis of major outputs and results**

**Note by the Executive Director**

*Summary*

The annex to the present note contains a synopsis of major outputs and results from the implementation of the water policy and strategy of UNEP, as referred to in document UNEP/GC.25/9. The annex has been issued without formal editing.

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\* UNEP/GC.25/1.

## Annex

### Implementation of the UNEP Water Policy & Strategy within the context of the Medium Term Strategy: Synopsis of major outputs and results

#### WPS Component I: Assessment

	Thematic Area	MTS <sup>1</sup>	Synopsis of major outputs and results
A.	Knowledge base for water resources management	EM (a, b) EG (d)	<p>Integrated environmental assessments (Global environment outlook, Africa Atlas of our changing environment ) used to identify environmental hotspots requiring urgent attention e.g. Lake Faguibine in Mali</p> <p>The data and information from the regional water vulnerability assessments for Central Asia, Northeast Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia was uploaded onto a regional data portal for wider public access.</p> <p>The comprehensive and integrated action plan for the Bagmati River in Nepal provided information for planning and mobilizing resources.</p> <p>The GEMS/Water monitoring network has grown to over 3,100 stations with over 4 000 000 data points which are on a GEMStat website (<a href="http://www.gemstat.org">www.gemstat.org</a>) with an open web service where participants can exchange data. The global water quality indicators and water quality index developed by the programme have been used globally, including in the water component of the 2008 Environmental Performance Index, launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos.</p>
B.	Awareness raising	EM (b) CC (a)	<p>Awareness raising of environmental aspects of water through (i) several TV programmes on environment and water aired monthly in 34 channels in Panama, Costa Rica, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Peru and Colombia, amongst others, (ii) educational radio broadcasting programmes on international waters, biodiversity, climate change and the ozone layer were aired by PULSAR Latin America Association of Radio Education broadcasting stations.</p>
C.	Assessing threats trends and emerging issues.	DC (c) EG (d)	<p>The UNEP/ UNESCO groundwater vulnerability assessment of 10 African cities was presented to the 6<sup>th</sup> African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in 2007, and resulted in the ongoing establishment of the African Ground Water Commission.</p> <p>The Sudan post conflict assessment identified environmental degradation as an important contributing factor behind population displacement and local conflict outbreaks in Darfur. The outputs provide technical input to sustainable groundwater extraction and the re-establishment of the water governance framework.</p> <p>The Lebanon post conflict assessment found contamination of surface and groundwater in specific industrial pollution 'hot spots' and extensive damage to water supply and wastewater networks.</p> <p>The regional capacity of south-east European countries to manage shared regional resources and pollution at specific hotspots was improved and the local early warning capacity was enhanced to reach EU standards.</p>

<sup>1</sup> See Key on page 18.

## WPS Component II: Management (Reported by Thematic Areas – see Water Policy & Strategy Appendix II)

	Thematic Area	MTS	Synopsis of major outputs and results
A.	Mainstreaming of environment into development process	EG (b)	<p>Of the 19 developing countries that have developed Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) road maps, 7 West African countries are using the maps to develop Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans for reforms in water governance. In Guatemala, local communities are able to participate in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) development process due to the training provided in indigenous languages. The results of the UNEP survey on the global Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plan development process were included in the UN Water report presented to CSD16 in 2008 while its methodology was considered for the development of the World Water Assessment Programme indicators.</p> <p>In West Asia, UNEP supported national institutions to identify gaps for the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans and improved awareness of 'decision makers' on the importance of implementing the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans paving the way for institutional reforms.</p>
B.	Legal instruments	EG (b)	Contributed to improving water governance by providing policy briefs for use by stakeholders and technical support to countries (i) to review bills for new water laws (Costa Rica) (ii) to strengthen their capacity for bridging the gaps between transboundary and national frameworks (East Africa); and (iii) to integrate environmental dimensions of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).
C.	Water resource augmentation (e.g. rainwater and desalination)	RE (a) EM (a, b, c) CC (a)	<p>Rainwater harvesting projects in Kajiado Kenya, resulted in the planting of over 18,000 trees in homesteads and schools, the establishment of kitchen gardens have improved income and nutrition levels, and the reduction of time spent by women and girls for fetching water. The project has spread to neighboring communities and countries and attracted the support of other donors like Ryans Well, Rotary international. The members, mostly women, are now borrowing money from commercial microfinance institutions and manage their money better as a result of the training provided by the project.</p> <p>Water practioners in Antigua and Barbuda are now using the rainwater harvesting hand book and the GIS maps developed by the project for planning purposes</p>
D.	Groundwater	EG (b)	<p>A Joint Legal and Institutional Iullemden Aquifer Systems Cooperative Framework was established to monitor the transboundary aquifer thereby reducing the probability of contamination, risk and conflict. The project will be extended to the North West Sahara Aquifer System.</p> <p>Solutions for sustainable management of groundwater in the Arab region were identified through the regional expert dialogue for the Wadi Hydrology, Ground Water in the Arab region.</p>
E.	Climate change	CC (a) EM (a, b, c)	<p>The Iloilo Water Management Committee in the Philippines mainstreamed Rainwater Harvesting (RHW) in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for climate change adaptation in the Tigum Aganan catchment, constructed Rainwater Harvesting (RHW) facilities (tanks, ponds, terraces). As a result, the community experienced damage when the Typhoon Frank hit the area in July 2008 that killed 200 people, displaced a million others, damaged ecosystems, and destroyed rice fields.</p> <p>In Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala the increased understanding of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) by local communities facilitated a dialogue between stakeholders that was previously absent. Local communities contributed to the process of incorporating climate change adaptation into Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). A sourcebook with case stories of climate change adaptation and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) was developed and is being used as reference for further planning.</p>
F.	Water demand management and water conservation	RE (a)	According to a UNEP survey, the African Breweries production process use 60-200 % more than the global average of water consumption per unit volume of beer produced. As a follow up result, a CD containing key techniques and guidelines that could be adopted by breweries to improve water efficiency was developed.
G.	Freshwater coastal-area linkages		Integrating watershed and coastal area management in small island developing States resulted in improved water management: Innovative approaches for augmenting water resources and water efficiency were applied in the tourism sector (Caribbean small island developing States); the regional legal basis for preventing land-based sources of pollution was strengthened and capacity-built (Indian Ocean); and water and waste management improved sustainably (Pacific small island developing states).

			<p>Through a series of regional workshops (Africa, Asia and the Caribbean) organized by UNEP, countries obtained a new understanding of mainstreaming approaches and created new incentives to expedite the integration of coastal and marine environmental issues into national development plans and budgets. Countries are working on specific proposals for future support by UNEP and others.</p> <p>Compilation of a number of case studies from a wide diversity of contexts (Africa, Asia, Australia, Central and South America, Europe and Middle East and North America) highlighting the benefits of linked coastal and river basin management. More countries are adopting this approach and referring to the lessons in the Case studies.</p>
H.	Ecosystems restoration	EM (a, b, c)	<p>The Iraq Marshland project enhanced the quality of water, improved access to water supply and sanitation and raised awareness of women on environmental health and social issues. Based on the project, UNEP and UNESCO are supporting designation of the Marshland as a World Heritage</p> <p>UNEP facilitated Afghanistan and Iran to collaborate in the management of the Sistan wetlands which were damaged by droughts.</p>
I.	Transboundary Water Resources Management	EG (b)	<p>The International Commission of the Congo-Oubangi-Sangha River Basin (CICOS) reformulated the intergovernmental agreement, which focused on navigation, to include water resources management and to reach out to additional members. A road map for the transitional process was developed</p> <p>Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Bermejo River strengthened the institutional aspects for addressing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).</p> <p>Strengthened capacity and created a regional institutional framework for the effective management of the Volta Basin; developed regional policy, legal and regulatory frameworks for addressing transboundary concerns in the Volta Basin and its downstream coastal areas; and demonstrated national and regional measures to combat transboundary environmental degradation in the Volta Basin.</p>
J.	Environment and security – post disaster management	DC (c) EM (b)	<p>The Afghan National Environmental Protection Agency prepared draft management plans for Dasht-e Nawar Flamingo and Waterfowl Sanctuary, Kole Hashmat Khan Wetlands and Band-e Amir National Park. Afghanistan has received support to prepare the accession instrument to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.</p> <p>Through training laboratory technicians and establishing a water quality laboratory, the water quality management capacity of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy in Liberia was strengthened.</p>
K.	Water and the Millennium Development Goals	EG (b)	<p>UNEP, provided technical support and policy advise to AMCOW in the preparatory process of the June 2008 AU Summit on accelerating progress toward meeting the 2015 MDG targets on water and sanitation. This meeting adopted the Sirte Declaration which is now used as a basis for preparing the action plan for the African Union water programme.</p>
L.	Infrastructure and sustainable development	EM (a)	<p>Outcomes of the Dams and Development Project, were used to develop a comprehensive programme to promote ‘environmental due diligence’ in infrastructure management, for sustainable development and poverty reduction.</p>
M.	Capacity building	All cross cutting	<p>Through South-South Cooperation, Cuba provides legal assistance to the Dominican Republic to draft a bill for a Law to Reform the Water Sector.</p> <p>A water capacity building programme using the South-South Cooperation mechanism was developed with input from governments, regional and subregional institutions from all regions. As a follow up, the Government of China is providing technical and financial support to train African experts in rainwater harvesting within t his framework</p>
N.	Gender Issues	All cross cutting	<p>AMCOW developed an outline of the gender strategy which will be finalized with the support of UNEP and other institutions.</p>

### WPS Component III: Coordination

	Thematic Areas	MTS	Synopsis of major outputs and results
A.	Global	EG (a)	The environment aspects of water are given prominence globally in (i) UN Water meetings and its task forces on transboundary waters, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) - , country-level coordination and climate change (ii) Fifth World Water Forum processes, (iii) the Stockholm Water week and (iv) the contribution to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> World Water Development Report.
B.	Regional	EG (a, b) EM (a)	<p>A consolidated water governance capacity-building programme proposal was adopted at the 9th Conference of Iberoamerican Water Directors held in Zaragoza.</p> <p>In Africa, the support of UNEP in various forums culminated in the adoption of the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation by the AU summit signaling political support to water and sanitation at the highest political level</p> <p>A sub-regional water policy based on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) - was adopted by water ministers of the Economic Community of Central African States.</p> <p>A ministerial committee was formed to provide political guidance to member States on the sustainable management of the Congo River basin</p>
C.	National	EM (a, b, c) CC (a)	<p>The capacity of countries to adapt to the impact of climate change on water has been improved through the implementation of pilot projects in Panama, Peru, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Philippines, Vietnam and Mozambique</p> <p>Kenya has pledged 30% of the funds required to implement the plans for rehabilitating the Nairobi river. The law enforcement capacity against polluters has improved.</p>

#### KEY: Expected Accomplishments of Medium Term Strategy

1. **Climate change (CC)**
  - a) Adaptation planning, financing and cost-effective preventative actions are increasingly incorporated into national development processes that are supported by scientific information, integrated climate impact assessments and local climate data.
2. **Ecosystem management (EM)**
  - (a) Countries and regions increasingly integrate an ecosystem management approach into development and planning processes;
  - (b) Countries and regions have capacity to utilize ecosystem management tools;
  - (c) Countries and regions begin to realign their environmental programmes and financing to address degradation of selected priority ecosystem services.
3. **Environmental governance (EG)**
  - (a) United Nations system demonstrates increasing coherence in international decision-making processes related to the environment, including those under multilateral environmental agreements;
  - (b) States increasingly implement their environmental obligations and achieve their environmental priority goals, targets and objectives through strengthened laws and institutions;
  - (c) National development processes and United Nations common country programming processes increasingly mainstream environmental sustainability in their implementation;
  - (d) National and international stakeholders have access to sound science and policy advice for decision-making.
4. **Resource efficiency – sustainable consumption and production (RE)**
  - (a) Resource efficiency is increased and pollution is reduced over product life cycles and along supply chains.
5. **Disasters and Conflict (DC)**
  - (a) States' environmental management contributes to disaster risk reduction and conflict prevention;
  - (c) The post-crisis assessment and recovery process contributes to improved environmental management and the sustainable use of natural resources.