

UNEP SUPPORT FOR ACHIEVING THE 2005 IWRM TARGET

“accelerating the process”



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The availability of freshwater is critical in many parts of the developing world. The diminishing water resources add to the challenge of achieving Millennium Development Goals such as poverty reduction, maternal health and environmental sustainability. It is therefore essential that the issue of water management is addressed and steps are taken to ensure the efficient use of the water resources available in the affected countries. Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) provides a useful framework for governments and other stakeholders to manage their water resources as an integrated part of policies related to water in different sectors of society.





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In recognition of the seriousness of the freshwater situation in many parts of the developing world and of the fact that improved water management is essential for achieving the broader economic development goals for poverty reduction, the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002 adopted a target to “develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005” with support from developed countries.

For most developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the implementation of the IWRM target requires acceleration. At the 4th World Water Forum held in Mexico in March 2006, global and regional surveys on progress showed that an increasing number of countries are in the process of preparing IWRM roadmaps, plans and strategies and are revising policies and laws to reflect IWRM principles. However, there are still many countries in need of support to all levels of the process. Moreover, support is needed to the actual institutional reform process and institutional capacities necessary to implement the IWRM plans.



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UNEP support to the 2005 IWRM target

In recognition of the difficulties many countries are experiencing in IWRM planning, UNEP initiated a comprehensive support project in May 2005 with a major financial contribution from the Danish Government.

The UNEP support project to achieving the IWRM 2005 target aims to provide assistance to governments upon request and in collaboration with appropriate partners to accelerate the implementation of this IWRM 2005 target. The focus of the UNEP project is the sub-regions, however as a part of the sub-regional work programme, national-level assistance is being provided to selected countries. The main outcomes of the project include sub-regional road maps and work-plans and context- specific national road maps for IWRM planning. Other results include awareness raising, capacity-building and enhanced capabilities for developing and implementing national IWRM and efficiency plans.

In undertaking the activities, UNEP is promoting collaboration and coordination with other ongoing initiatives at all levels. Thus, the UNEP IWRM programme joins the local key partners in all its sub-regional and national components. At the global level the IWRM Info Forum is an informal mechanism for coordination and information exchange among partners active in IWRM support, in particular UNEP, UNDP, World Water Assessment Programme, GEF, GWP as well as a number of donor countries.



As emphasized in Chapter 38 of Agenda 21, a key objective to be pursued by UNEP within the United Nations system is the provision of policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment. This entails the major responsibility for facilitating the integration of the environmental aspects of social and economic development into policy discussions, decisions and plans involving water resources. In pursuit of this goal, UNEP accords high priority in its activities to the protection, conservation, equitable distribution and efficient use of freshwater resources, both for human survival and for the maintenance and protection of ecosystems of value to humans i.e. promoting and supporting IWRM with a proper inclusion of the Ecosystem Approach. UNEP's focus in IWRM is expressed in UNEP's Water Policy and Strategy.

Project objective and approach

The immediate objective of the UNEP project is:

“Acceleration of the implementation of the IWRM 2005 target ensuring that environmental aspects are adequately incorporated in the strategies/roadmaps produced to achieve this target”

In order to meet this objective, UNEP has taken the point of departure in the established sub-regional networks and IWRM related activities in Africa, Asia and South America.

Taking into account the geographical scope of the project, the extensive number of co-operating partners and the tools employed to promote IWRM plans and assist regions and



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countries to acquire such plans the project is expected to generate the following results:

- Networks supported. Sub-regional networks relative to environmental aspects of the IWRM 2005 planning process and the general IWRM process established and/or supported;
- Work plans and road maps/strategies prepared. Sub-regional work plans addressing the environmental aspects of the IWRM 2005 target prepared. Such work plans and road maps will also be prepared at the national level where governments have articulated a particular need.
- Guidelines. Thematic and sub-regional guidelines for the environmental component of the IWRM 2005 planning process;
- Capacity enhanced. Provide, on specific request from countries and basins, technology support and capacity-building to national governments and other stakeholders in their IWRM planning activities, and
- Progress tracked and reported. The sub-regional IWRM progress tracked and progress reported in general and in the field of Water and Nature. Results presented for international fora, e.g. the sessions on IWRM National Plans held at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico 2006. IWRM indicator systems and methodologies for their application are part of the results.



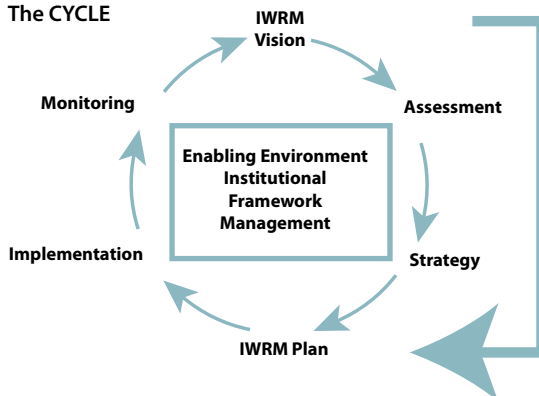
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The ROADMAP

A “Roadmap” describes the process leading from a vision to a n IWRM plan. In developing national roadmaps the following questions should be addressed:

1. Where is the country in the planning cycle ?
 - IWRM Vision of the country
 - Situation assessment
 - Policy and strategy development
 - IWRM plan
2. What are the constraints to the planning process?
 - Lack of awareness, understanding and political will ?
 - Elected representatives and government
 - Stakeholders
 - Lack of capacity ?
 - Technical
 - Managerial
 - Financial
3. Which actions should be taken to reach to the plan ?
 - More detailed problem assessment ?
 - Awareness raising at political, managerial and stakeholder levels ?
 - Targeted capacity building ?
 - Resources mobilisation (internal/external) ?
 - Technical assistance ?
4. What will the actions require ?
 - Time frame and budget (who, what, how and how much)
 - Expected international assistance

The CYCLE



ROADMAP

How to come from vision to IWRM plan

- Where are we ?
- What are the constraints ?
- What actions needs to be taken ?
- What will such actions require ?

Project implementation

The project is under implementation in ten sub-regions and may, depending on available resources, be extended to one or two more. Focal countries are being identified in each sub-region and a key point in the project is the cooperation with other organizations and institutions supporting IWRM.

The 10 sub-regions involved in the project

- Southern Africa
- Central Africa
- West Africa
- North Africa
- South East Asia
- Central Asia
- Central America
- Caribbean
- South America – Andean Countries
- South America – Southern Cone

The project is implemented by UNEP (Division of Environmental Policy Implementation), and the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment (UCC-Water), located and hosted at DHI in Denmark, executes and coordinates the activities - in close cooperation with other relevant initiatives at all levels.

Main Co-operating partners

- UNDP Regional and national offices
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- African Development Bank (ADB)
- Asian Development Bank (AfDB)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Environment Commission of Central America (CCAD)
- Caribbean Environmental and Health Institute
- Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Component of the EU-Water Initiative
- World Conservation Union (IUCN)
- IWRM Capacity Building Network (CapNet)

The specific activities vary due to differences in context and IWRM status from one sub-region to another. The objective is to accelerate ongoing processes, which also requires a flexible approach taking into account the conditions on the ground.

Project implementation in Central Asia – an example

The work in Central Asia is a well advanced project component. This sub-regional component has been developed by UNEP and UCC-Water in close consultation with GWP CACENA. The programme has been coordinated with UNDP and UNECE. The envisaged results will include;

- Sub-regional reports on progress towards the IWRM 2005 target and towards an IWRM framework.
- National road maps/work plans for the IWRM target in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- Needs assessment for support to implementation of IWRM reforms as identified in the road maps and work plans
- Capacity built on IWRM planning for key water managers and decisions makers

A regional coordination and consultancy team has been formed with representatives of GWP CACENA, the three focal countries and UCC Water. The project component started in October 2005 and will operate until October 2006.



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Global Support Activities

Although the focus of the IWRM 2005 Project is on the 10 sub-regions and selected priority countries, there is still a need to support the activities from the global level. The sub-regions find their own solutions adapted to the local water resources and socio-economic context. However, many concepts and approaches within IWRM and in particular within IWRM and Environment need further clarifications and discussions before these concepts and principles can be useful in identifying roadmaps and actions leading towards IWRM including environmental sustainability. The global supporting activities thus concentrate on preparation of thematic technical papers, guidelines, training materials for the IWRM processes and inclusion of lessons learned as the process moves on. Moreover, monitoring of progress towards the IWRM 2005 Target is essential for guidance to the processes and any required modification to the direction of those processes. In this respect, the project contributes to the development of indicators and country reporting formats in close collaboration with other UN organisations and GWP. Inputs to the global monitoring process thus derives from both the overall monitoring from the central level as well as from the supported sub-regions own monitoring processes.



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Capacity building

One of the important means to achieve a faster progress is to improve awareness and understanding of IWRM planning processes among key players within institutions responsible for water resources management. Therefore, the UNEP IWRM 2005 Programme comprises a substantial component on capacity building including specific training courses for water managers according to identified needs e.g. within policy, law, particular aspects of IWRM planning etc.

UNEP activities within capacity building are generally carried out within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building adopted on 4th December 2004.

At the national level the Bali Strategic Plan promotes that capacity building activities take place in a close cooperation between UNEP, UNDP, GEF and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements. At the regional level there should be consistency with strategies prepared by regional and sub-regional bodies, such as e.g. the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for sustainable Development (ILAC).

Capacity building in West Africa – an example

In West Africa the need for one week training courses in IWRM planning was identified. The curricula will encompass such themes as situation analysis, policy, law, institutional framework, work plan development, strategic visions and strategic options. The courses will target senior government professionals from all countries in the sub-region (Directors, Heads of Department) and take place in two of the focal countries of the project.

The training program is planned in collaboration with EIER/CEFOC, GWP/West Africa, Cap-Net/West Africa, and ECOWAS/WRCU.

Milestones

The generic milestones set for the overall programme are:

- Project implementation phase for regional activities for work programme (October 2005-October 2006)
- Sub-regional inception report (November 2005). The report outlines a work programme for the regional and national IWRM activities
- Progress report at WWF 4 in Mexico (March 2006)
- Draft sub-regional work programme report (October 2006)
- Overall report of the UNEP IWRM 2005 project comprising all sub-regional work programmes. (January 2007)

The Way Forward

The way forward towards achievement of the "IWRM 2005 target" will address the countries remaining to complete the road-mapping exercise, but in particular those who enter into the process from roadmap to IWRM plan.

- Stocktaking and reconsideration of international targets taking into account global milestones for the water agenda such as CSD 2008, World Water Development Report 2009 and target year of the MDGs 2015 (January 2007).
- Mobilising partners for support to the further implementation
- Support to regional IWRM coordination mechanisms
- Support to development of IWRM plans and their implementation

Targeted capacity building in project regions and focal countries e.g. through the UNEP Bali strategy on technology support and capacity building



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