

GEF Support for the Athens Declaration and Petersburg Process: Toward Improved Transboundary Water Management

**IV International Symposium on Transboundary Water Management
Thessaloniki, Greece, 15-18 October 2008**



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Global Environmental Facility – international mechanism to address global environmental issues, (established in 1991)

- **International Waters** - transboundary systems includes the oceans, coasts, Large Marine Ecosystems and connected river basins; transboundary rivers, lakes, groundwater basin systems;
- **2 Long-term Objectives for the focal area:**
 - to foster international, multi-state cooperation on priority transboundary water concerns;
 - to catalyze transboundary action addressing the priority concerns by assisting states to use the full range of technical, economic, financial, regulatory, and institutional reforms and investments
- **Experience Sharing/Learning for Portfolio—GEF IW:LEARN**

GEF International Waters Portfolio of Approved Projects (FY 92-08)

- **171** Council-approved projects
- **146** recipient countries & **20** industrialized countries
- **\$1.13** Bil GEF grants; **\$4.96** billion co-financing



IW Strategy ^(1/3)

Long term objectives and strategic programs for International Waters in GEF-4

Long-term Objectives

- 1:** To foster international, multi-state cooperation on priority transboundary water concerns
- 2:** To catalyze transboundary action addressing water concerns



Strategic Programs for GEF-4

- 1.** Restoring and sustaining coastal and marine fish stocks and associated biological diversity
- 2.** Reducing nutrient over-enrichment and oxygen depletion from land-based pollution of coastal waters in LMEs consistent with the GPA
- 3.** Balancing overuse and conflicting uses of water resources in surface and groundwater basins that are transboundary in nature
- 4.** Reducing persistent toxic substances and testing adaptive management of waters with melting ice

IW Strategy (2/3)

Strategic Programs for GEF-4

Strategic Program	Expected Outcomes
<p>SP-1: Restoring and sustaining coastal and marine fish stocks and associated biological diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Initial attention to global “hot spots” in Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia/Pacific, and Latin America/Caribbean LMEs, and accelerated entry into force of the global ship ballast water/ invasive species Convention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Political commitments made to ecosystem-based joint action on sustainable fisheries and ICM •Institutions and reforms introduced to catalyze implementation of policies reducing over-fishing and benefiting communities •Multi-agency partnerships catalyze replication of innovations •Increased coverage of MPAs
<p>SP-2: Reducing nutrient over-enrichment and oxygen depletion from land-based pollution of coastal waters in LMEs consistent with the GPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Initial efforts expected on nutrient land based pollution reduction in East Asia LMEs and the Mediterranean Sea LME, and creating enabling environments for action elsewhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Political commitments made to nutrient and other pollution reduction and ICM •Institutions and reforms introduced to catalyze implementation of policies for coastal pollution reduction and ICM •Multi-agency partnerships catalyze replication of reforms and innovative investments for nutrient reduction

IW Strategy (3/3)

Strategic Program	Expected Outcomes
<p>SP-3: Balancing overuse and conflicting uses of water resources in surface and groundwater basins that are transboundary in nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Requests expected for the great basins of South America experiencing climatic fluctuations, in African basins and the Mekong to introduce IWRM policies. Special focus on SIDS included for protecting community surface and groundwater supplies while reducing sewage releases. Groundwater protection strategies would be tested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Political and legal commitments made to utilize IWRM policies towards sustainable water use •Institutions and reforms introduced to catalyze implementation of policies for basin-scale IWRM and increased water use efficiency •Communities benefit from access to water-related benefits in tests of innovative demonstrations of balancing water uses •In SIDS, water-related health risks reduced through protected water supplies
<p>SP-4: Reducing persistent toxic substances and testing adaptive management of waters with melting ice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A limited program testing strategies to reduce releases of PTS and to test adaptive management in areas of melting ice in polar and high-altitude basins in order to inform future GEF replenishments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reduction of human and ecosystem health risks from PTS at demo sites •Incorporation of pollution prevention strategies for PTS into private sector operations •Adaptive management measures identified, agreed upon, and tested in limited basins with high-altitude headwaters and one polar LME

Petersberg – Athens Process

- **90% of SEE territory within shared water basins, including 13 major TB rivers, 4 TB lakes and ~50 TB aquifers;**
- **Need for international institutional/legal frameworks and cooperative arrangements;**
- ***Petersberg Process* (1998 – Germany with WB and GEF) provides support to translate into action then current developments and opportunities for future cooperation on transboundary water management in the SEE;**
- **Athens Declaration (2003 Greece with WB) is a framework for cooperation on capacity building and knowledge sharing on IWRM and the development of IWRM plans for transboundary basins in SEE Europe and the Mediterranean;**
- **Two process merged to create synergy and maximise outcomes;**
- **GEF through IW:Learn is co-financing activities in SEE under the Petersberg-Athens Process.**

How did it work?

- **Coordination Group** was formed on the basis of Core Partners(Ge, Gr, WB, GEF IW:Learn, GWP Med and UN ECE and UNESCO later on);
- **Roundtable Dialogues** brought together stakeholders from different basins facing similar TWRM challenges;
- **Capacity Building materials** produced by expert partners and broadly used in discussions and disseminated through the website;
- **Targeted Workshops** on specific topics identified by partners addressing training needs;
- **Information management** linked with events and fostering networking and continued exchange of views;
- **Partnership Building** brought new core partners, linked the process with relevant country ministries and key regional NGOs.

Multipurpose Uses in Transboundary Water Management of the Sava River

Roundtable Dialogue on:

- **Competing uses in Sava Basin under the EU Water Framework Directive;**
- **Identification of major driving forces of sustainable development (e.g. navigation, hydropower, tourism, etc.) and assigning priorities;**
- **Linkage of different level of use;**
- **Stakeholders and interest groups involvement and responsibilities;**
- **Utilisation of broader political and economic integration processes.**



Results & Achievements

- **Enhanced capacity of stakeholders on TWRM at all levels via knowledge exchange and experience sharing;**
- **Raised awareness of national policy makers and political will and commitment to action;**
- **Establishing basis for future relevant activities under existing and new regional TBWM institutions (e.g. Sava Commission);**
- **Participatory approach strengthened, providing platform for more “bottom up” approaches and stakeholders involvement in TWRM;**
- **Establishment of communication among TWRM practitioners in SEE as a basis for future web based Community of Practice;**
- **Increased coordination and synergy amongst regional and international initiatives.**

Lessons Learned

- **The fundamental prerequisite for shared benefits is the creation of a Vision for the management of the shared water resources;**
- **Improving understanding and changing political behavior requires patience, consistency and balance against the reality of regional dialogue processes;**
- **Proces of regional dialogue requires except for in-kind support direct financial means, the programme must be sustained without significant interruptions;**
- **Partners and stakeholders should stay focused over entire duration of the regional dialogue and all events related t the process.**

Future of Petersberg-Athens Process

- Deepening the process of transnational dialogue already started in SEE (e.g. Mestos/Nesta River Basin);
- Drin River Basin Consultation Meeting (GWP Med, GEF, UN ECE, etc.), November 08, Tirana, Albania;
- Expanding gained experience towards South Med region (Euro-Med, MENARID/GEF IW:Learn) for GW-coastal waters, rivers-coastal waters;
- Fostering twinning arrangements between projects, projects and regional TWM institutions.

GEF is looking for your input:

- How to utilize the results and lessons learned from Petersberg-Athens Process in next GEF cycle?
- Who are the partners to continue with in SEE and Mediteranean region in continuation of succesfully launched processes?
- Key challenges in transboundary waters management to be addressed in GEF 5?

