IWRM in Transboundary Basins: Status and Prospects

A seminar on the status of transboundary waters as a result of applying IWRM and ecosystem-based approaches

Date: **Tuesday, 18 August 2009**

Time: **14:00-17:30 Hrs**

Venue: Stockholm International Fairs, Älvsjö, Room T3

Speakers:

Mr. Poul Nielson, Former EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid
Dr. Bruce Hooper, UNEP DHI Centre, Denmark
Dr. Henry David Venema, IISD, Canada
Dr. Nkobi .H. Moleele, BIOKAVANGO Project, Botswana
Commissioner Allen .I. Olson International Joint Commission (IJC) of United States and Canada

Panel members:

Dr. Diego Rodriguez, World Bank
Dr. Hartmut Brühl, GWP-TEC
Prof. William Mitsch, Ohio State University
Mr. Mario Cerutti, Executive Secretary of the International Meuse Commission

Chair: **Mr. Tim Kasten, UNEP, Kenya**

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Join a team of speakers and panelists to discuss some of the burning questions in the management of transboundary waters such as:

- What are the achievements, gaps and challenges in applying IWRM in the transboundary context?
- What is the appropriate baseline to measure and assess the drive towards implementing IWRM?
- How can we accelerate implementation of IWRM in transboundary waters?
- How do we encourage the application of ecosystem-based approaches to improve river health and minimize pollution?

The seminar will explore the impact of implementing Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) principles and emphasis on ecosystem-based approaches on the governance and the environmental situation of transboundary waters.

Discussions will be based on the partial outcomes of two ongoing studies and selected field experiences from Africa and North America.

Seminar participants will be invited to share their perspectives on these issues which are important for the governance of water resources, maintenance of river health, and meeting basic livelihood needs.

Studies:

1. The global survey being conducted by the *UNEP DHI Centre*, Denmark, on the implementation of IWRM in transboundary waters; and
2. The detailed research on the application of ecosystem-based approaches in selected transboundary waters being undertaken by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Canada.

Field experiences:

1. *The BIOKAVANGO Project* on the Okavango river basin in Southern Africa; and
2. The *International Joint Commission (IJC)* of the United States and Canada in the Great Lakes.

Expectations from the seminar:

- Motivating various organisations to contribute to the global survey being conducted by DHI;
- Promoting improved governance and management of transboundary rivers;
- Promoting the application of the ecosystem-based approaches to maintain river health while meeting basic livelihood needs.

Notes:

Transboundary water basins account for about 60% of freshwater flow and cover close to 50% of the earth's total land surface and an estimated 40% of the world's population lives within them.

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) is a process for the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of ecosystems. IWRM is key to rationale management of the general increasing demand for water which is a finite resource.

Ecosystem-based approach is defined as a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005).