

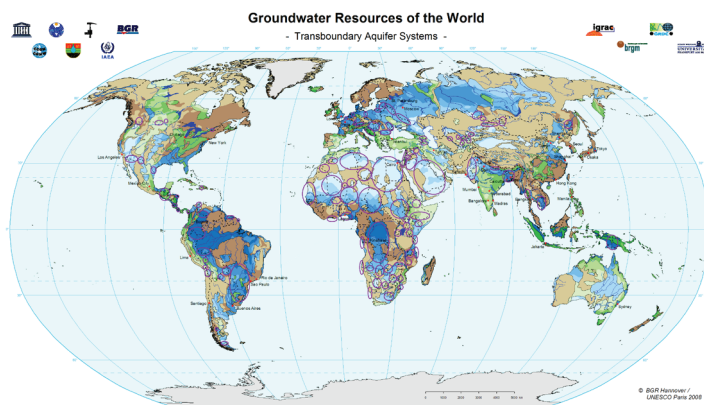
GROUNDWATER IN THE GEF AND COOPERATION WITH UNESCO-IHP

Since 1999 efforts have been made in the IW Focal Area to fill a major gap in GEF portfolio relative to groundwater and aquifers. During the early 2000's, the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Implementing Agencies have been working cooperatively to analyse opportunities for projects that would promote a new approach to groundwater management, better integrated with land use planning, ecosystems protection and basin management. Thanks to this cooperation a number of highly representative projects have entered the GEF portfolio, and the GEF has come to the forefront as the leading funding institution in the field of transboundary groundwater.

In 2003 the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), in dialogue with the GEF Secretariat, identified groundwater as a priority for its 2003-5 Work Program. This has led to the establishment of a highly successful cooperation with UNESCO's International Hydrological Program (IHP) and its global long-term initiative to promote assessments and scientific collaboration on transboundary aquifers – the International Shared Aquifer Resources Management Initiative (ISARM). STAP urged GEF to catalyze the integration of groundwater issues into the global dialogue on water and to encourage the efforts, led by United Nations International Law Commission (UNILC) and UNESCO-IHP, to promote the implementation of the UNGA Resolutions on the 'Law of Transboundary Aquifers' and their annexed Draft Articles.

As a consequence of this sustained effort, the Recommendations of the Fifth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund included a special focus on, and a specific mention of groundwater as part of the first Strategic Objective of the International Waters focal area.

This growing realization of the critical role of groundwater in sustaining human development and ecosystems has led to the inclusion in the third phase of IW LEARN of a substantial effort to strengthen groundwater consideration in the GEF IW portfolio of projects.



COOPERATION IN ACTION

The UN General Assembly declared 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation (led by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water) and 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) - to put a spotlight on the special needs of island nations.

Transboundary waters and fragile ecosystems are at the heart of the messages promoted by these two global celebrations - as international cooperation, in particular about transboundary aquifers, is essential to achieve the sustainable, peaceful and integrated management of water resources (groundwater, marine and fresh surface waters) and to ensure water security for all.

The activities carried out by UNESCO-IHP in the framework of the IW:LEARN Project are inscribed among the contributing events to the International Year of Water Cooperation (2013) and the International Year of SIDS (2014).



International Year of
Small Island
Developing States
2014

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ENHANCING
GROUNDWATER
KNOWLEDGE ACROSS
THE **GEF IW PORTFOLIO**



GROUNDWATER IN THE MENARID PORTFOLIO

The Integrated Nature Resources Management in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENARID) Program

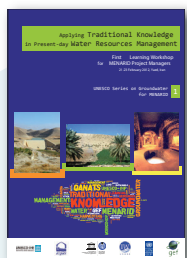


includes 11 investment Projects – co-founded by the GEF and IFAD – that cuts across the following GEF focal areas: Land Degradation, Biodiversity, International Waters and Climate Change.

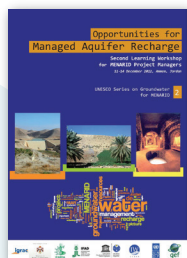
Within the framework objective of promoting integrated natural resources management (INRM), IW:LEARN has foreseen a regional sub-component, coordinated by UNESCO-IHP, whose objective is to improve effectiveness in combating land degradation in through an enhanced role of groundwater and improved subsurface space management.

MENARID through an enhanced role of groundwater and improved subsurface space management

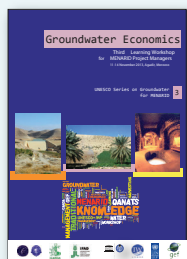
This regional component involves the organization of a series of learning workshops on different aspects of groundwater management for GEF MENARID Project Managers and M&E Officers. These workshops are organized by UNESCO-IHP in cooperation with ICARDA and other partners.



1 Yazd, Iran
February 2012



2 Amman, Jordan
December 2012



3 Agadir, Morocco
December 2013



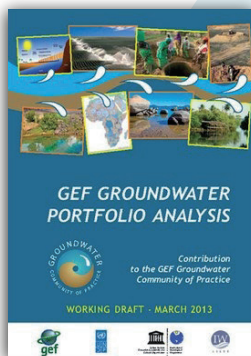
4 Beirut, Lebanon
June 2014

www.menarid.icarda.org

GLOBAL GROUNDWATER COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



The CoP aims at facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience on groundwater resources management from the GEF IW portfolio and beyond. The online face of the CoP is twofold: a repository page for all activities (www.groundwatercop.iwlearn.net) and an interactive global hub (forum.un-igrac.org).



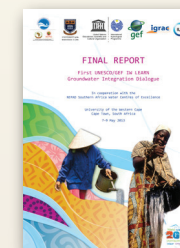
Analysis of the GEF Groundwater Portfolio: a tool to present and review the portfolio of groundwater light of disseminating outstanding projects co-financed by the GEF in results, lessons learned and replicable practices. The report is a living document constantly enriched with comments, additions and revisions from participants of the Groundwater CoP.

Groundwater Talks:

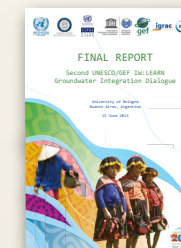
A series of videos and interviews from events across the world looking at groundwater issues, to explore what people say and think about the *invisible resource*.



Groundwater Integration Dialogues: Face-to-face meetings in different regions of the world organised by UNESCO-IHP to bring together selected GEF IW projects and regional networks to share best practices, and promote conjunctive management of surface, marine and groundwater resources.



First GW Integration Dialogue
Cape town, South Africa
May 2013



Second GW Integration Dialogue
Buenos Aires, Argentina
June 2013



Third GW Integration Dialogue
Athens, Greece
May 2014



www.groundwatercop.iwlearn.net