



HELP



Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy



HELP is a joint UNESCO IHP-WMO initiative and is a cross-cutting programme of the Sixth Phase of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO



NEWSLETTER

Issue No 1
April 2005

Message from Mike Bonell, Global Co-ordinator of HELP

Dear HELPers,

We hope you like this Newsletter and will find it useful. It is one of the first steps towards consolidating the successful implementation of the HELP network, finally achieved in 2004. The Pilot Phase of HELP was evaluated at an international symposium *Towards Integrated Catchment Management: Increasing the dialogue between scientists, policy makers and stakeholders* held in Kalmar, Sweden, in August 2002. Henceforth, the focus of attention is on sustainability and reinforcement of the network.

The International Steering Committee has produced an action plan for feedback of various products to HELP basins - see page 4. Further, some major HELP events are also in planning or are contributing to other international meetings (see Forthcoming events and Planned International HELP activities).

Synergies with other partner programmes are also evolving further. For example, the 12th session of the Commission for Hydrology of WMO, October 2004, identified the following climate-related activities linked with the impacts of society:

- flood forecasting
- floodplain management and
- water and climate related issues

In conformity with the "bottom-up" approach, the mid-term goal is to establish HELP Regional Coordinating Units to act as the first point of contact with individual basins. So far, three RCU's have been established:

- Ecuador for the Latin American and Caribbean region;
- Australia for Australasia and the South Pacific;
- Washington D.C. for North America.

We shall include contributions from these RCU's on their current and planned activities in the next issue.

Finally, I am very pleased to report that the Scottish Executive announced in March 2005 that they will support the establishment of the UNESCO IHP-HELP International Centre of Excellence in Water Law, Policy and Science in Dundee, UK (see Further News). This Centre will act as a global centre for interfacing water law and policy with science, with a strong focus on developing countries. What was particularly pleasing was the close teamwork engendered, initially between the UNESCO Secretariat with the University of Dundee and subsequently with the Scottish Executive, and with the strong support of the UK Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO to bring this development to a very positive conclusion. All was accomplished within 14 months from inception of the project in January 2004. The next steps are to receive formal approval of this Centre through the UNESCO system.

What is the overall direction of the HELP initiative?

When it met in Bonn in February, 2005, the HELP International Steering Committee decided to postpone the next 'Call for HELP basins', previously planned for 2006. This will allow us to focus on reinforcing the current network, necessary while a substantial and sustainable funding base is being established. The limited resources of the HELP Global Secretariat in Paris, (1.5 persons) are nevertheless working closely with existing HELP Regional Coordinating Units to ensure that the HELP network is managed effectively. A priority focus is to maintain communication links between HELP basins and to promote science and stakeholder exchanges on a sustainable basis.

Despite current constraints, HELP has enough resources for the following activities to be implemented during the next two years:

- the organization of major HELP Conferences and Workshops connected with HELP experiences on several issues (i.e. Southern Hemisphere, Stakeholder dialogue, Water and Law). This includes bringing representatives from both within and outside the network of HELP basins to international meetings.
- the preparation of information kits to be distributed to the HELP basins - brochures, logos, standard PowerPoint presentations, key publications)
- a regular Newsletter provided to the HELP basins
- the development of sub-networks on thematic issues (i.e. a Mediterranean HELP basin, Water and Forests, Water and Climate Vulnerability, Water quality)
- further collaboration between the HELP network and other IHP activities, and other international organizations (i.e. WMO-Commission on Hydrology) or international programmes (i.e. International Network of Basin Organizations, the Global Water System Project, the International Water Management Institute).
- the production of multimedia products such as DVDs showcasing work done in some HELP basins, to attract the attention of International Donors.
- publications on thematic issues based on the HELP experiences (i.e. water and food, innovative science in the HELP network)

The HELP Global Secretariat seeks your feedback on how maximize benefits from the above activities (help@unesco.org).



Catchment treatment in the Gagas basin, India



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FAQs

The International steering Committee (Bonn, Germany, February 2005) reacted to recent feedback from some HELP basins by providing responses to the following **Frequently Asked Questions**:

How does learning or experiences get shared across HELP catchments?

Through:

- individual exchanges (these are encouraged to take place between individual basins directly using the HELP website for contact addresses)
- publications
- thematic workshops and conferences
- conference calls (this does exist on a regular basis for the Northern American basins)
- exchange of hydrological models and institutional frameworks

What is the importance of Catchment Classification? Why it is desirable for a catchment to move to a higher level classification?

The HELP classification is there to measure the catchments progress towards implementing the HELP philosophy and this might help to secure support from national donors.

What is the process to facilitate 'twinning' with other HELP catchments?

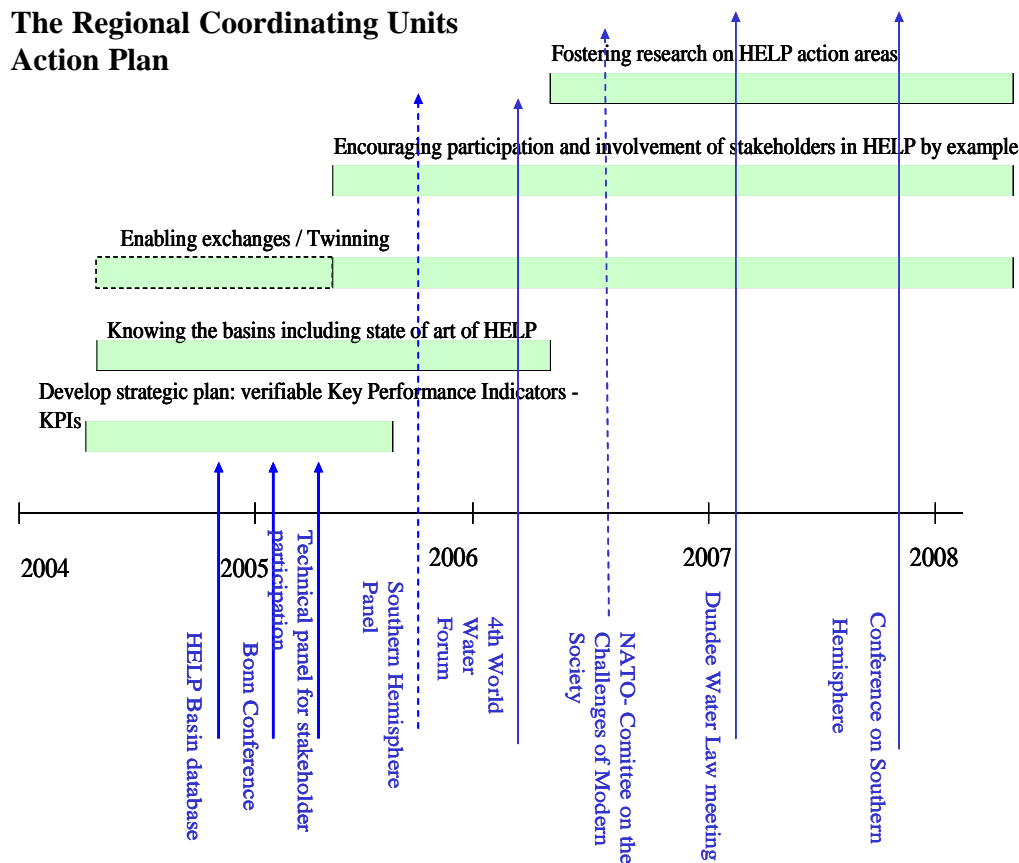
There are several formal and informal channels for pairing of basins to promote HELP principles across the network:

- Listing of basins by key issues - currently being done by the Global Coordination Unit and RCUs
- Listing of basins by kind of organizations that made the proposal (i.e. basin organization, NGOs)
- Recommendations on possible twinning agreement
- Recommendations by RCUs on possible joint development
- Informal contacts between key players within the HELP basin network - HELP will be happy to promote such linkages.

Do the RCU have a communication or engagement plan for the region that they are coordinating?

RCUs will make contact directly (when it has not been done) with the basins of their region and will try to find opportunities to meet with them during regional meetings and conferences.

The Regional Coordinating Units Action Plan



The HELP Regional Coordinating Units:

• North America (USA, Mexico and Canada):
National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington D.C., USA
Contact:
Mr Jonathan Triggs. narcuHELP@usgcrp.gov or jtriggs@hsb.gsfc.nasa.gov

• Australia, New-Zealand, South Pacific:
CSIRO Land and Water, Griffith, Australia, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga
Contact:
Professor Shahbaz Khan. shahbaz.khan@csiro.au; skhan@csu.edu.au

• Latin America and the Caribbean:
FIMCM-ESPOL, Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral, Guayaquil, Ecuador
Contact:
Ms M. Pilar Cornejo R. de Grunauer. mpcr@hotmail.com

• Europe (from January 2006):
International Water Law Research Institute, University of Dundee, UK
Contact:
Ms Patricia K. Wouters. p.k.wouters@dundee.ac.uk



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Forthcoming Events

Headwater Control VI: Hydrology, Ecology and Water Resources in Headwaters

20 - 23 June 2005, Bergen, Norway
<http://www.nve.no/headwater05>

Two HELP basins will participate in this conference. The Conference is a contribution to UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme, IHP VI (2002-2007). The conference will address a wide range of water related topics, linking together several themes in rural development, and soil and water conservation. It will also focus on the way different societies throughout history have perceived and used headwater areas in relation to their culture, tradition and religion.

Managing watersheds for human and natural impacts: Engineering, Ecological and Economic Challenges

American Society of Civil Engineering - Environmental Water Resources Institute (ASCE-EWRI) 2005 Watershed Management Congress
19-22 July 2005, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA.
<http://www.asce.org/conferences/watershedmanagement2005/>

A special session on HELP will be held on the evening of July 20 from 7.30-9.30 pm. The HELP programme will be strongly represented at the Congress from the North American basins network.

Sharing a Common Vision for our Water Resources

6th International Conference of the European Water Resources Association.
7 - 10 September 2005, Menton, France
<http://www.cig.ensmp.fr/~ewra2005/>

Five HELP basins will contribute to the session dedicated to International Programmes.

World Water Week

21-27 August 2005, Stockholm City Conference Centre, Sweden
<http://www.worldwaterweek.org/worldwaterweek/index.asp>

The HELP programme will be represented at the seminar entitled "Transboundary Water Governance as a Manifestation of a Dialogue".

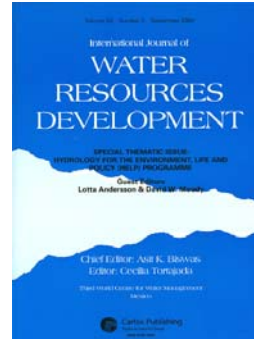
HELP workshop on the Pacific

The focus of the workshop is to elaborate a "Pacific HELP" - an interpretation of the HELP programme that is applicable to the Pacific context and relevant to Pacific island catchment area stakeholders. In particular, the Symposium will focus on devising ways in which HELP can contribute to strengthening catchment area management practices in the Pacific considering the limited data collection and processing capacity in the region. This workshop will be held in Nelson, New Zealand, near the Motueka HELP basin in November 2005.

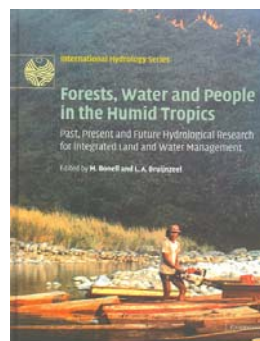


Traditional raft in Davao basin, Philippines

Publications



International Journal of Water Resources Development (Vol.20, no.3) September 2004. "Special Thematic Issue: Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) programme" which is a collection of papers from the HELP Symposium *Towards integrated catchment management: Increasing the dialogue between scientists, policy makers and stakeholders*, Kalmar, Sweden, August 2002. Guest editors: Lotta Andersson & David Moody



Cambridge University Press, UK - International Hydrology Series. January 2005. "Forests-Water-People in the Humid Tropics - Past, Present and Future Hydrological Research for Integrated Land and Water Management". This book is based on a joint IHP-IUFRO International Symposium with the same title which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July-August 2000. Several recommendations are providing point of departure for HELP basins which intend to focus on this topic. Editors: M. Bonell & L.A. Bruijnzeel

Planned international HELP activities

- HELP will be represented at the 4th World Water Forum, Mexico, March 2006.
- A workshop on Stakeholder Dialogue is planned to be held in 2007.
- A Regional Conference (Europe) is planned to be organized in 2007 to address the issue of water law and water sciences dialogue.
- An International Conference on the HELP experiences in the Southern Hemisphere will be organized in 2007. This Conference will address a large spectrum of issues. The first Steering Committee meeting will be held in Paris on 30 August-2 September 2005.
- The need to find a niche for a sustainable project in the Mekong basin. Patricia Wouters, University of Dundee, will study the different possibilities through her network and a HELP representative will meet with the members of the Mekong River Commission.
- An International conference will be held in Megève in September 2006 to review the innovations, progress and significant experiences since the "Water in Mountain, Integrated Management of Mountain Watersheds" Conference (2002). Part of this event will be devoted to "montane" HELP basins and their "twinning" with the nearby Pays de Savoie/Mont Blanc/Lac Léman HELP basin.



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News

The HELP International Steering Committee meeting met in Bonn, Germany, on February 24 2005. Following feedback coming from the basins an action plan has been established (see below).

Action plan for feedback to the HELP basins:

It has been decided to produce the following:

- a first Newsletter (others will follow regularly) containing FAQs, the list of forthcoming conferences as well as information on publications and other activities of the network.
- A DVD or CD-Rom of about 30 minutes on the HELP experiences containing videos prepared within HELP basins. It has been suggested to include a 7-min video by region.
- A kit of information on HELP as brochure, logos, reference docs, maps and standard PowerPoint presentation. It has been suggested to provide this kit on a memory stick or a CD-Rom that will be distributed by the RCUs and the Global Secretariat when they meet with basin's representatives or key partners.
- A set of publications on thematic issues replying to the needs of HELP basins. The issues will have to be further examined but suggestions made included "water and food" or "what kind of innovative science is available in HELP?"
- The Regional Coordinating Units (RCUs) will make contact directly with the basins of their region and will try to find opportunities to meet with them during regional meetings.
- The possibility of establishing a list of national and international donors to transmit to the HELP basins was also requested.

Further News:

Following approval by the 16th Session of the International Hydrological Programme- Intergovernmental Council for the establishment of a UNESCO Centre entitled "International Centre of Excellence in Water Law, Policy and Science" in Dundee, UK, the Scottish Executive (the Devolved Government of Scotland within the UK) announced in early March 2005 that they would provide financial support (in the order of GB Sterling 900,000) to underpin the operations of the Centre for five (5) years. The next steps are to prepare the necessary documentation for formal approval of the Centre's establishment through the autumn 2005 sessions of the Executive Board and General Conference of UNESCO. The Centre will commence operations in 2006. In a future issue of the Newsletter, we shall include an invited article from the University of Dundee outlining their plans for HELP activities through this Centre.



Village meeting in Mandaratsy basin, Madagascar

Good Water Governance for People and Nature

In August 2004, the International Water Law Research Institute, University of Dundee hosted a conference entitled "Good Water Governance for People and Nature: What Roles for Law, Institutions, Science and Finance?"

The conference brought together around 100 participants from a variety of countries and backgrounds. Several HELP related activities took place during the conference: a plenary session on HELP was convened; various HELP basins presented during the thematic sessions; and there was a meeting of the HELP international steering committee.

In addition, the IWA Water Law and Policy Book Series was launched. One of the first books published in this series will be, Hydrology and Water Law * Bridging the Gap * A Case Study of HELP Basins, edited by Jim Wallace, Patricia Wouters and S Pazvakavambwa.

A selection of papers from the conference have been published in a special edition of the Journal of Water Law (Vol. 15, 2004).

For more information contact:

Dr Patrica Wouters, p.k.wouters@dundee.ac.uk.



Integrated Assessment of Water Resources and Global Change: A North-South Analysis

The conference was organised by the Global Water System Project (GWSP) in co-operation with the Project on Global Change in the Hydrological Cycle (GLOWA) at the Centre for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany; the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF); the German National Committee of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme (HWRP); the initiative Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the Challenge Program on Water and Food (CGIAR); and the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS).

Participants numbered 130 and came from 29 countries.

A total of 45 invited and selected volunteered papers were presented during six sessions designed to address a series of questions as follows:

How does science influence policy at regional, national, and global levels? How to ensure that relevant scientific information reaches decision makers in an appropriate form? How do the different global water initiatives contribute to the integrated assessment and management of water resources in river basins? How are stakeholders consulted? How can communication be improved and how does this differ between countries in the North and South? How can large datasets, originating from different scientific disciplines, be managed and translated into useful information? How can we deal with data gaps, especially in the often data-poor South? How can we deal with the increased number and complexity of water relevant processes within the boundaries of river basins? What are the key challenges in integrating bio-physical and socio-economical factors? How can we integrate social and physical factors that affect the distribution and availability of water in river basins?

The participants presented 38 posters in addition to the 45 oral papers. Of the oral papers, 24 have been submitted for peer review and publication in a special issue of the Journal Water Resources Management for which Organizing Committee members Eric Craswell, Mike Bonell, Deborah Bossio, Siegfried Demuth, and Nick van de Giesen will be guest editors.

The posters and papers were generally of a high quality, and the discussions in each session were by and large vigorous. The presentations from the various projects provided a unique overview of progress in the major scientific programmes dealing with water from an international perspective. A final discussion session gave selected participants from Asia, Africa, Australia, and Europe an opportunity to assess and comment on the main themes.

For more information, please contact Dr. Eric Craswell, Executive Director of the International Project Office of the GWSP, eric.craswell@uni-bonn.de



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Marie-Camille Talayssat



After working in the IHP HELP secretariat since 14 April 2001, Camille has decided to return to her native south-west France as from 1 May 2005.

Camille joined us at a critical time during the transition from HELP being a concept towards being put into practice with the initial launching of the Pilot phase, and later the establishment of the global network of 67 basins. Over the first two years she quickly came to grips with her understanding of the various complexities and interdisciplinary workings of HELP, getting to know the HELP network as well as taking responsibility for being the global contact for the francophone HELP basins. She also provided support to the Swedish organisers of the first HELP International Symposium in Kalmar, Sweden, August 2002.

By 2003, it was clear that she had acquired all the necessary experience to take the leading responsibility within the secretariat for supporting the HELP Evaluation Committee when concerning the establishment of current HELP basin network. This was a major task which she did very efficiently. She also acquired a good understanding and gave some support to the secretariat in other areas of the IHP especially within my domain of responsibilities notably the FRIEND programme, the establishing of an integrated science (surface hydrology-groundwater- ecohydrology- isotopes) series of expert workshops, forests and water and climate-water activities. All these contributions have gone towards meshing HELP with other areas of the IHP as a cross-cutting activity of IHP-VI.

I know that through her prompt responses and support to all manner of enquiries and her work towards the preparation of meetings via email and phone, made her very popular within the HELP network. What was perhaps not so well appreciated by the HELP community at large was that due to a shortage of office space when she arrived; I had to make room in my own office and provide her with a working area - always with a view as to this being only a temporary measure. Moreover, by placing together in the same room a strong Gallic mind with an Anglo-Saxon (even more corrupted by the Australian approach), is not without potentially grave risks. First she never did leave my office during those 4 years and second, I do not recall a serious cross-word between us - a fitting contribution indeed towards the 100th Anniversary of l'Entente Cordiale last year.

Camille will be greatly missed as a friend and colleague. Her acquired experience will not be replaced quickly. However I am sure that I can speak on behalf of all colleagues here in Paris and the global HELP network at large, when we sincerely wish her well in the next steps of her career path. But somehow I do not think Camille will ever sever contact with us, she still remains committed in her mind towards HELP and the rest of the IHP.

Mike Bonell

If you wish to include any information in a future HELP Newsletter, please contact the HELP Secretariat.

HELP Office

Postal address:

UNESCO, Division of Water Sciences
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

Website: <http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/help>

Telephone Secretariat: +33.1.45.68.39.96

Fax: +33.1.45.68.58.11

E-mail: help@unesco.org