



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 5
December 2006

Message from Siegfried Demuth, Global Co-ordinator of HELP



Dear HELPers,

I am pleased to introduce myself as Chief for the Hydrological Processes and Climate Section in the IHP Division of Water Sciences. Following Mike Bonell's retirement, I joined UNESCO in early November 2006.

My work at the Albert Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany, focused mainly on low flows and regionalization and then on climate change and droughts which resulted in publications, papers and articles on different themes including hydrological analysis, assessment of the vulnerability of a river system, regional impacts of droughts and climate change in Europe.

As Director of IHP/HWRP Secretariat in the Federal Institute of Hydrology, Koblenz, Germany, I was responsible for the German contribution to the IHP Programme of UNESCO and the HWRP Programme of WMO, organizing National Committee meetings and focal point for WWAP, HELP and FRIEND. Many of the IHP activities are familiar to me having been a member of the IHP Bureau and representative of Germany at several sessions of the IHP Intergovernmental Council. I was also the Coordinator for the North-Eastern FRIEND group for the last four years.

I have a great interest in the HELP Programme. The HELP International network of basins provides a unique window on catchment management at regional scale as well as the opportunity to meet the scientific and social challenges of our societies. I look forward to working with you on various projects linked to the HELP basins and to meeting you in the catchments, in South Africa for the HELP Symposium, *Lessons from the South*, or in my office at UNESCO HQ.

In this issue, items to mention include:

- The Symposium "Water in Mountains" held in Megeve, France, which gathered representatives from five European HELP basins as well as representative from the HELP Secretariat and from the Dundee Water Centre.

- An article on Global Water Watch Organization and possible cooperation with the HELP network.

- The European Union Launch of the Dundee HELP Centre for Water Policy, Law and Science in Brussels.

- The first announcement of the HELP Southern Hemisphere Symposium "Local Solutions to Global Water Problems- Lessons from the South" which will be hosted by the Government of South Africa, Pretoria, 4-9 November 2007.

HELP in ACTION

In this issue:

The Symposium "Water in Mountains"

The second International Symposium on "water in Mountains" held in the HELP site « Pays de Savoie, Annecy, Mont-Blanc, Léman » 20-29 September 2006, gathered numerous representatives from headwater catchments.

Global Water Watch and HELP

Report on a possible future collaboration between GWW, a water monitoring focused organization and the HELP international network.

The EU launch of the Centre for Water Law, Policy and Sciences.

The official launch of the Dundee HELP Centre, within the European Union, took place in Brussels on November 28th.

The 1st Announcement of the HELP Symposium "Global Water Problems- lessons from the South"

The Local Organizing Committee released the first announcement for the HELP International Symposium. Draft Schedule and registration details are also included.

The HELP Secretariat wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !



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International Symposium

“Water in Mountains”

Megeve, 20-29 September 2006

HELP has always focused on management of headwaters and mountainous catchments. 27 of the 67 HELP basins are located in mountainous regions or are directly impacted by mountains. Located in boreal, temperate, tropical or sub-tropical regions, mountain catchments are very important to economic and human development.

The first International Congress organised in Megève by the ‘Société d’Economie Alpestre’ (SEA) and the ‘Société d’Equipement de Haute Savoie’ (SED) in September 2002, increased to a wider scale the attention of the public on this issue and on the principles of responsibility and solidarity between uplands and lowlands, requiring immediate action.

To continue their role of "water tanks" and to preserve a satisfying ecological quality of waters, mountains need thoughtful and integrated management. The degradation of these sensitive environments and the overuse of water create frequent user conflicts as well as increasing natural risks.

It is now urgent to implement, at all levels, sustainable resources policies and integrated water management. The Second International Symposium “Water in Mountains”, also organized by the SEA and SED, focused on three major themes:

- The program of the operational HELP site « Pays de Savoie, Annecy, Mont-Blanc, Léman » followed by technical sessions on water management in mountains.
- The EURO-INBO General Assembly (35 countries); the network of the European Water Agencies that will review the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) towards its deadline 2015.
- The Meeting of the Elected representatives from Mountain Regions at the national and European level, to consider the role of local administrations in mountain areas as managers of water resources, and their responsibilities.

The HELP Programme invited European representatives from HELP headwater catchments to share their experience on this topic.

- Mr Ganoulis, from the Nestos-Mesta catchment located in the transboundary mountainous region between Greece and Bulgaria, presented alternative models in order to facilitate negotiations and final decisions in managing transboundary water resources
- Ms Clemens from the Rhone basin, which is directly influenced by the Alps, Jura and Massif Central, in France, presented the drivers of change toward new policies and the main ongoing scientific studies.
- Ms Valarié, from the Herault basin which is between 0 and 1550 meters high, presented the water management approach at the river basin level based on a land use and water management plan for the Herault River developed by the " Conseil général de l’Hérault " and its partners.
- Ms Neto, from the Guadiana basin located between Portugal and Spain from 0 to 1700 meters high, presented the development of a multi-level institutional concerted action, including local policies and central government agencies in the field to face the cross-scale nature of the problems in the region.
- Mr Black then presented the new IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science established in the University of Dundee, Scotland and some strategies developed to address water management issues. The Centre will become the Regional Coordinating Unit for the European HELP basins.

The HELP presentations and the technical sessions addressed a large variety of issues and outlined the need for a cooperation in water management between upstream and downstream catchments.

The French Minister Nelly Ollin presented details of the new Water Law to be submitted this December.



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Global Water Watch A potential partner of HELP

Editor note: In May of 2006, Steven Greb, on behalf of IHP HELP, attended a training session sponsored by the Global Water Watch (GWW) to observe, learn and formulate ideas as to how the HELP program and GWW might collaborate in the future to bring heightened awareness to water quality issues within the HELP basins. He also lectured GWW students and instructors on HELP program activities.

Expertise and resources for water quality monitoring varies widely among HELP basins. In the developed countries such as the US, laboratory infrastructure is generally sufficient to provide analytical services for a variety of water quality studies, but in underdeveloped regions of the world, these services are not available. Hence, there is a critical need to provide simple quantification tools for individuals interested in water quality and quantity management. GWW was established in 1992 at Auburn University, Alabama, under the direction of Dr. William Deutsch. Their objective is to teach basic, reproducible methodologies that are inexpensive and simple to use. Training workshops are usually offered at a water body where the monitors live. The GWW program works with citizen groups to develop a monitoring plan. Sampling sites are selected that are convenient, safe, legal, accessible and strategic in water quality information gained. Monitors are encouraged to sample their sites at least monthly to record water conditions and capture seasonal and yearly trends. Information is recorded on standard data forms and sent to the GWW office by mail or processed online for entry into the GWW database. GWW also provides technical support for monitoring groups, such as data interpretation sessions and a database for storing, analyzing and disseminating data to water monitors, educators, decision-makers and the general public.

The program is based on a model of community-based water monitoring (CBWM). The CBWM "is a participatory process of linking a community group to appropriate technologies for understanding, protecting and managing their watershed. Each monitoring program should be adapted to the unique biophysical, social and political features of a region". The model concept is shown in figure 1 below. It seeks to empower local citizens and organizations through training and understanding of basic limnological concepts to use this knowledge for education, protection and advocacy. The ultimate goal is watershed management and sustainable environment and quality of life.

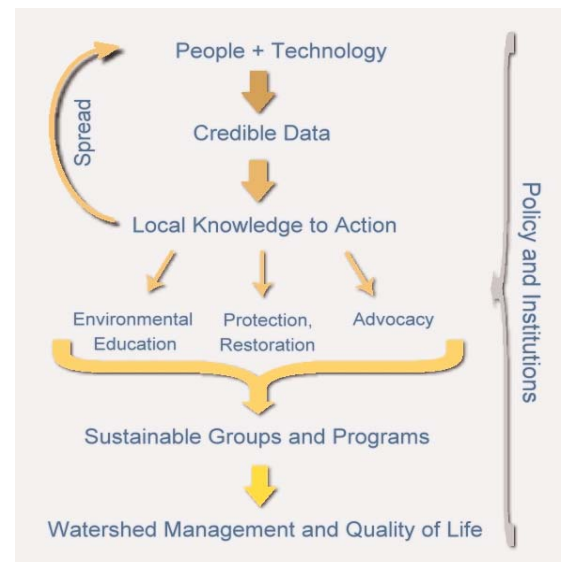


Figure 1 Community-based water monitoring modeled used by GWW



GWW has worked in Alabama, the Philippines, Ecuador, Thailand, Brazil and Mexico, with brief projects/GWW workshops in China and Peru. There are currently volunteer water monitoring activities in Alabama and among our partners in Philippines, Ecuador, Thailand, Brazil and Mexico. Argentina is planning to start soon, and Honduras and Guatemala have expressed interest in joining the network.

Figure 2 A GWW field training exercise on biomonitoring.



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GWW and HELP

There are a number of interesting parallels and some striking contrasts between HELP and the GWW. For example, the GWW goal is to "Foster the development of citizen volunteers, who are monitoring water bodies for the improvement of both water quality and water policy". HELP goals include "Focus on societal benefits by involving stakeholders" and "Create a framework for dialogue". Across both programs, one can see success requires the local stakeholders have an understanding and a degree of ownership of the assessment and eventual water management action. A distinct contrast of the two programs relates to the roles of individuals in the process.

The HELP model (Paradigm lock) has a distinct "division of labour" with scientists on one side and management and policy on the other side, with continual interaction and feedback with identified stakeholders. In contrast, the GWW empowers local citizen groups and individuals to conduct all aspects of integrated water management, ranging from the sampling to interpretation to advocating for policy and management changes. HELP basins are generally larger in size than GWW basins. Where GWW focuses on small streams (2-3rd order), HELP basins tend to be large order river basins. Along with the increased size of the HELP basins comes increased complexity. HELP basins, with a greater involvement of professional hydrologist, probably have more advanced technical analysis (e.g. simulation modelling) of their water issues. Where HELP focuses on a structure in which specialists interact, GWW emphasises what the citizen can do in all facets of water management (and also clearly defines the limitations). It is important to note that this isn't a criticism of the GWW program. Not all basins have the luxury of large funding support. In this world of limited resources, GWW has proven an effective leader in assisting local organizations in their monitoring needs. Many of the new HELP basins in developing regions of the world may find the GWW techniques extremely useful and a partnership with GWW would prove valuable in establishment of a basic monitoring program.



Figure 3 Lecture on HELP to GWW staff and students by Steve Greb

Some simple actions that GWW and HELP could initiate to foster closer ties include:

1. Include links on each other's websites
2. Include some basic information about GWW on HELP website
3. Write an article on GWW for the HELP website (I will do this)
4. Invitation to GWW to provide presentation at upcoming HELP symposium (2007)
5. Solicit participants from HELP basins for GWW training
6. Bring greater awareness of the HELP Programme to GWW participants

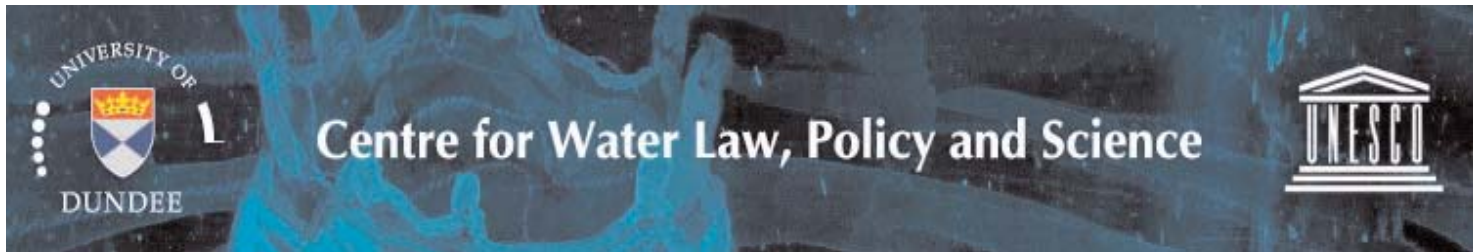
It is clear that collaboration between these two programs could bring benefits to both and enhance their effectiveness in reaching their respective goals.

By Steve Greb

More information on Global Water Watch can be found at: <http://www.globalwaterwatch.org/>



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LAUNCH OF UNESCO WATER CENTRE

A pioneering UNESCO Centre in Dundee, Scotland, aimed at ensuring fair distribution of the world's increasingly in-demand water supplies, was formally launched in Brussels on November 28th. The UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee is the first centre in the world dedicated to developing legal frameworks to help address the pressing problems related to the management of the world's water resources.

The launch event takes place at Scotland House in Brussels, with senior figures from the European Institutions, diplomatic missions and international organizations in attendance. The event is hosted by Sir Alan Langlands, Principal of the University of Dundee, and HE Tim Craddock, the UK Ambassador to UNESCO.

The centre is already engaged in projects around the world, developing frameworks for the effective management of water resources, training a new generation of 'water leaders', and linking scientists, policymakers and lawyers.

At the heart of the Centre's aims is the goal of ensuring all the world's people have fair and equitable access to water.

Mr Craddock, said, "This is the first UNESCO Centre in the UK, and it is a significant achievement for Dundee and for Scotland. But above all it is a huge practical contribution to tackling what is likely to be one of the greatest challenges of the next century - the need to share equitably the most important resource - water.

"The Dundee centre is at the cutting-edge of policy development. Through sharing experiences and building knowledge, it can make a huge contribution in helping policy makers and governments tackle this challenge effectively."

Professor Patricia Wouters, director of the UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at Dundee, said, "Climate change, natural disasters, globalisation, world trade, increasing population, conflict - all of these are placing increased pressure on our water supplies. Good science and good policy alone will not solve the world's water problems - we need 'rules of the game' codified in transparent, enforceable and responsive legal instruments.

"Our experience around the world, with national governments, stakeholders, bilateral and multilateral donors and UN agencies reveals a real need for a new generation of 'water leaders'. Missing from most water resource management schemes is in-country expertise in water law and policy. This expertise needs to be enhanced at the local level worldwide."

The Centre has attracted funding of £2.5 million in major grants (SRIF, SRDG) which has allowed it to establish a new base at the University of Dundee and embark on a programme of recruitment which will see the creation of new chairs in Water Law and Water Science. The Dundee centre is a world leader in postgraduate research, teaching and training in water law and policy. The Centre has established a Legal Assessment Model (LAM) for the development of water policy, working with research teams in China, Mozambique and Palestine. The Dundee centre is launching a "Water Law, Water Leaders" Masters degree programme which it will teach in-country at these water basins.



From left to right: Sir Alan Langlands, Patricia Wouters and HE Tim Craddock



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SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

"HELP in Action"

Local Solutions to
Global Water
Problems



Lessons from the South



4 - 9 November 2007
Emperors Palace
Johannesburg
South Africa

HYDROLOGY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LIFE AND POLICY



INVITATION

The South African government is proud to host the UNESCO IHP-HELP Symposium aimed at bridging the gap between science and policy to solve "water related issues" at the local, national and international levels. You are invited to participate in this major international knowledge-sharing opportunity which brings together water law and policy experts, water resource managers and water scientists to solve real problems in real catchments.

OBJECTIVES

There is a "Paradigm Lock" between outdated accepted practices adopted in water resource management for the benefit of stakeholders and the application of more recent scientific findings. Scientific research is isolated by lack of proven utility, whilst water policy and management is isolated by legal and professional precedence. HELP is creating a new approach to integrated catchment management through the creation of framework for water law and policy experts, water resource managers and water scientists to work together on water-related problems. HELP is a "user-driven" initiative requiring active involvement of both policy and facilitating (water and land resource managers) groups to set the policy agenda and ensure the scientific results will benefit societal needs through the revision of policy and management practices.

This symposium is aimed at bridging the gap between science and policy towards sustainable development at local, national and the international levels. Participation of the 67 basin organizations from 56 UNESCO partner countries makes this a tremendous knowledge sharing opportunity on how to put HELP into action.

Outcomes of this Symposium will go a long way towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

THEMES

Theme 1:

Action on the ground – methods and approaches

Theme 2:

Implementing HELP in basins with limited resources and capacity

Theme 3:

New Integrating Science being developed under HELP

Theme 4:

Connecting environment, economy, social and cultural impacts

Theme 5:

Institutional and legal lessons for successful HELP implementation

Theme 6:

Indicators of HELP success

Posters and Papers requested: A paper of no more than six (6) pages describing progress and results for your HELP basin from 2003 – 2007, including both successes and failures, and formatted to address some of the question in each Theme shall be submitted by 30 March 2007 to Shahbaz.Khan@csiro.au. This information will be made available on the HELP website and will be used by panelists during the Symposium to draw out lessons learned. Each HELP basin is also invited to prepare for presentation a poster for their basin addressing each of the five (six) Themes relevant to their basin. A template will be provided. Poster presenters will not need to attend the meeting but those present may be given an opportunity to introduce and speak to their poster. We should also invite RCUs to document their experiences.



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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Sun, 4 Nov 07	16:00 -	Cocktail and Registration SMiLE Learning Symposium
Mon, 5 Nov 07	08:00 -	Registration and refreshments
	09:00 -	Opening by SA President (tbc)
	11:00 -	Coffee break (SMiLE)
	11:30 -	Inspirational Visionary Kickoff
	12:00 -	Conference outline presentation: Presentation of the Agenda, Expectations, Goals and Process by Mr. Mbangiseni Nephumbada
	12:30 -	LUNCH
	14:00 -	Theme 1 (Rapporteur: Pilar Comejo de Grunauer)
	14:30 -	Visionary Speeches
	15:00 -	Basin Presentations
	15:30 -	Presentations Madagascar , India , Portugal , Puerto Rico
	16:00 -	Coffee Break (SMiLE)
	16:30 -	Panel Discussions (Discussions under chairperson responsibility Key Lessons)
Tue, 6 Nov 07	08:30 -	Theme 2 (Rapporteur: Shahbaz Khan)
	09:00 -	Visionary Speeches
	09:30 -	Basin Presentations, Davao , Upper Oueme, Volta , Vanuatu , Indus , Khalil Besor, Ruaha
		Coffee Break (SMiLE)
	10:30 -	Basin Presentations cont.
	11:00 -	Panel discussions
	11:30 -	LUNCH
	12:30 -	Theme 3 (Rapporteur: David Moody)
	14:00 -	Visionary Speeches
	14:30 -	Basin Presentations
	15:00 -	Presentations UK LOCAR basins, Murrumbidgee , Thukela (SA)
	15:30 -	
	16:00 -	Coffee Break (SMiLE)
	16:30 -	Panel Discussions
Wed, 7 Nov 07	08:30 -	Theme 4 (Rapporteur: Henrique Chavez)
	09:00 -	Visionary Speeches
	09:30 -	Basin Presentations: Motueka , Panama and Tarim
	10:30 -	Coffee Break (SMiLE)
	11:00 -	Basin Presentations cont. Presentations Motueka , Panama and Tarim
	11:30 -	Panel discussions
	12:30 -	LUNCH
	14:00 -	Theme 5 (Rapporteur: Stephan Uhlenbrook/Jiebin Zhanq)
	14:30 -	Visionary Speeches
	15:00 -	Basin Presentations
	16:00 -	Coffee Break (SMiLE)
	16:30 -	Panel Discussions
Thur 8, Nov 07	08:30 -	Field trip to Olifants HELP basin
Fri 9, Nov 07	08:30 -	Theme 6 (Rapporteur: Andrew Fenemor)
	09:00 -	Visionary Speeches
	09:30 -	Basin Presentations
	10:30 -	Coffee Break (SMiLE)
	11:00 -	Basin Presentations Continued
	11:30 -	Panel discussions
	12:30 -	LUNCH
	14:00 -	Closure and looking forward
	14:30 -	Reports from each thematic Themes(6)
	15:30 -	Participants Feedback on reports and Wise Impressions
	16:00 -	Coffee Break (SMiLE)
	16:30 -	Action plan (HELP 2008 and beyond launching into IHP IIV) new HELP secretariat
	18:00 -	Last SMiLEY reception dinner / cocktail



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SYMPOSIUM FIELD TRIP TO OLIFANTS HELP BASIN

The rapid development of the water resources of the Olifants River Basin (Catchment), has undoubtedly contributed to its economic growth, but the distribution of benefits has been singularly inequitable with the majority of its population being largely excluded from access to water. The basin offers a very interesting case study of how the principles of reconciling equity, efficiency and sustainability are being translated into practice.

POST-SYMPOSIUM TOUR TO THUKELA HELP BASIN

A two day post conference tour is suggested with an overnight at a resort in the spectacular Drakensberg mountain range of the upper Thukela Basin (Catchment), KwaZulu Natal.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Conference registration fee for UNESCO sponsored participants is free. For non-sponsored participating the registration fee of R4 500-00 which includes:

- Access to all plenary sessions Nov 5 to 9 (including the Symposium field trip)
- Lunch and refreshments
- Access to evening social events
- Admission to Exhibit Hall
- All conference handouts
- Conference registration fees do not include the post conference tour or any side-event. Separate registration will be required. Please select additional option made available on the registration form.

Symposium registration will be available online shortly, in the meantime please register via fax.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Customer Service Monday – Friday:	08h00 – 16h00
Phone:	+27 11 463 5085
Fax:	+27 11 463 3265
Email:	conference@soafrica.com
Contact person:	Taryn Van Rooyen

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Emperors Palace , Johannesburg , South Africa

ACCOMMODATION

The conference secretariat has booked accommodation at the 3 Star Mondior Concorde Hotel and the 5 Star D'Oreale Grande Hotel. Both these hotels are adjacent to the Conference Centre.

To book accommodation at one of these hotels please contact the conference secretariat.

COMPANIONS PROGRAMME

In addition, companions can choose from a number of options to enable them to enjoy the hospitality and excitement of a true South Africa visit.

HELP Secretariat Contact: Guillaume Narnio
g.narnio@unesco.org