



G-77/INFO-6

**MINISTERIAL FORUM ON WATER
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
23-25 February 2009**

**ACTIVITIES THAT INCLUDE COOPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF WATER WITHIN THE PURVIEW
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

(Background document prepared by the UNDP)

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77
NEW YORK**

UNDP submission to
The G-77 Ministerial Forum on Water
Muscat, Oman
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**“Activities that include cooperation between developing countries
in the field of water within the purview of the United Nations”**

1. Name of the project/programme

IW:LEARN – International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network

2. Description of the activity (short paragraph)

IW:LEARN is the Global Environment Facility’s (GEF) International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network operated as a partnership between UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. The mission of IW:LEARN is to strengthen transboundary waters management by facilitating learning and information sharing among transboundary waters projects, partners and stakeholders. Since 1998, IW:LEARN has worked to improve GEF International Waters projects’ information, replication efficiency, transparency, stakeholder ownership and sustainability of benefits through: 1. Information sharing – facilitating access to information about transboundary water resources; 2. Learning – structured learning among GEF International Waters projects and cooperating partners; 3. Dialogue – organizing biennial International Waters Conferences; 4. Innovation – testing innovative approaches to strengthen transboundary waters management and implementation; and E. Partnerships – fostering partnerships to sustain IW:LEARN benefits.

3. Countries involved

Over 100 countries are involved through the GEF International Waters portfolio

4. Contact information of project leader or website of project

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1. Name of the project/programme

UNDP-GEF International Waters Programme

2. Description of the activity (short paragraph)

For over 15 years, through its GEF International Waters portfolio, UNDP has been providing support to assist over 100 countries in working jointly to identify, prioritize, understand, and address the key transboundary environmental and water resources issues of some of the world’s largest and most significant shared waterbodies. UNDP’s International Waters portfolio targets over 30 transboundary water systems, such as river basins where water flows from one country to another, multi-country lake basins, groundwater resources shared by several countries, and large marine ecosystems (LME) bounded by more than one nation. Through these projects, UNDP helps countries work with their neighbors to modify human activities – including agriculture, industry, mining, water and other resource extraction, fishing and wastewater management – that place ecological stress on the water systems and degrade them, often affecting their downstream use by another country or community. In this way, water use conflicts can be prevented, security and livelihoods improved, habitats protected, health risks minimized and water resources used sustainably for the benefit of all. UNDP-GEF International Waters projects target priority global transboundary environmental and water resources concerns including nutrient overenrichment, overuse and conflicting uses of water resources in surface and groundwater systems, degradation of physical habitats in coastal and near-shore marine areas, lakes and watercourses, the introduction of aquatic alien species, and excessive exploitation of living aquatic resources and associated biodiversity. UNDP-GEF’s currently active International Waters portfolio totals about US\$ 200 million in GEF grant funding and leverages an additional US\$ 470 million in co-finance.

3. Countries involved

Over 100 countries are involved through the UNDP-GEF International Waters portfolio

4. Contact information of project leader or website of project

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1. Name of the project/programme

Cap-Net: International Network for Capacity Building in Sustainable Water Management

2. Description of the activity (short paragraph)

UNDP’s Cap-Net project links networks of water capacity builders across the developing world to support capacity development for more sustainable management and development of our limited water resources. Water professionals and academics share their knowledge across the global network, develop training materials which represent best practice and are adapted and translated for local use. Combining international knowledge with local experience is providing a platform for effective cooperation. Capacity building activities are supported that assist to develop skills and knowledge on water resources management. Expertise is shared between countries and regions in true south-south collaboration.

3. Countries involved

Most countries of:
South America, Central America and the Caribbean;
Southern Africa; East Africa and West Africa;
Middle East, South Asia and South East Asia.

4. Contact information of project leader or website of project

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