



The following comprises the list of challenges expressed by participants during the initial registration process.

### Good Practices for International Waters Governance and Institutions

- ◆ **Ownership (Commitment) by recipient countries**
- ◆ Institutional implementation capacity
- ◆ **Trust and confidence** among riparians
- ◆ Level of **public participation** in water system governance
- ◆ **Fragmentation** of institutional and legal frameworks across sectors
- ◆ **Lack of cohesion** in surface/groundwater and freshwater/marine management structures
- ◆ Poor communication of **scientific basis** for ecosystem-based policy and regulatory measures
- ◆ Failure to **mainstream gender** considerations at all levels of GEF, IA, EA and projects' managements
- ◆ The most pressing challenge of our project is to provide **sustainable mechanisms** for institutional structures of the Commission, which provide effective operation of the Commission beyond the project's life span.
- ◆ Designing governance interventions that address transboundary **multiscale issues**
- ◆ Strengthening **policy and institutional frameworks**
- ◆ Ensuring **efficient project coordination and supervision at national level** including the **enhanced project ownership at national level.**
- ◆ **Institutional weaknesses** at the national level; **Weakness of national focal institutions** (Ministries of Environment) in (Eastern Africa)
- ◆ **International waters in the national agenda planning process**
- ◆ Interaction with the **Millennium Development goals**
- ◆ Tackling with success the **challenges between international waters and climate change**
- ◆ Continued and expanded **country commitment to the political and governance process associated with SAP implementation for the LMEs**, and achieving associated **sustainability through** the demonstration of such commitment by way of **support for institutional arrangements and policy reforms**
- ◆ **Persuading countries** to consider the value of accumulated GEF experience and the benefits that would accrue if national policies replicated successful GEF initiatives. (GEF's external political lobbying is weak and needs to be reviewed and strengthened.)
- ◆ **Coordination** among the various partners involved
- ◆ **Multi-country coordination; varying levels of national development in multi-country projects.**
- ◆ Inter-agency, inter-governmental and inter-sectoral **partnership building**
- ◆ **Conflict** among GEF driven, agencies driven and country driven-ness polices.
- ◆ **Negotiation** of transboundary water issues & development of **regional agreements**
- ◆ How to arrive at **sustainable solutions** for river basin management.
- ◆ Mechanisms for establishing sustainable **transboundary cooperation in a region with political conflict.**
- ◆ **Implementing regional consultative mechanism for cooperation and coordination** between Mali, Niger and Nigeria (the structure of this consultative mechanism was adopted by the three countries)

- ◆ Effective **implementation of the Lake Tanganyika Convention and protocols by all** the four riparian countries
- ◆ Lost opportunity cost of potential for acceleration of progress and reducing transactions costs through **regional processes**
- ◆ **Variability and change** into decision-making
- ◆ Formulation of strategic environmental framework

### Successful Scientific and Technical Innovations

- ◆ My major interest is having **exchange of experiences with GEF projects on agriculture and environment**, and as a networking opportunity.
- ◆ Technical aspects to know the resource and evaluate its limits and possibilities
- ◆ The **application of binding and effective conservation and management measures for regional fisheries** management (in the Western and Central Pacific and the capacity for **Small Island Developing States to participate**).
- ◆ Decline in (GCLME) **fish stocks** and **unsustainable harvesting** of living resources
- ◆ Deterioration in **water quality**
- ◆ **Habitat destruction** and alteration, **degradation of coastline**
- ◆ Fisheries **technology transfer** with fishermen
- ◆ Considering **Groundwater as a cross cutting issue through different multi-disciplinary themes**
- ◆ Experiences in **transboundary integrated water management** including surface waters, ground water, and climate change adaptation, considering land based activities and its incidence in coastal areas and marine ecosystems (in the Americas).
- ◆ Capturing **nutrient reduction** and lessons learned, as well as interviewing nutrient reduction field practitioners, stakeholders, and policy makers.
- ◆ Appropriation of funding from national and supra national sources for **ensuring SAP implementation**.
- ◆ A well oriented process to the **SAP process** and the future **sustainability**.
- ◆ **Application of TDA/SAP** process in aquifer/groundwater projects.
- ◆ Sharing experience in domain of water resources in Sahelian area for **sustainable management of water**.
- ◆ Protecting **biodiversity**
- ◆ **Cross-border challenges** range from pollution, loss of critical habitats, ship waste and alien species to overuse and conflicting uses of surface and groundwater, over-harvesting of fisheries, and adaptation to climatic fluctuations (and associated droughts, floods, and reef bleaching, etc.)
- ◆ **Land-based contamination**
- ◆ **Improvement of quality of waters**; share the new experiences and learned lesson of projects; design new projects with the other countries in the region
- ◆ To control the **discharge of animal waste** to streams and open waters
- ◆ Addressing Invasive weeds, **combating** introduction of **alien species**
- ◆ **Rational assessment and management** of groundwater and surface water
- ◆ **Protection of the rivers and the grounds. Fight against poverty by the support at the local communities**. Reinforcement of the **capacities of the local** populations.

### Sustaining International Waters Partnerships

- ◆ Inadequate Allocation of Funding
- ◆ Acquiring **funding from national sources** (for ensuring SAP implementation).
- ◆ Acquiring **funding from supra-national sources** for ensuring SAP implementation.
- ◆ Looking at a variety of **economic instruments** both **conventional and innovative** e.g., use of **Payment for Ecosystem Services** has been a challenge in ensuring implementation of multi-country basin SAPs
- ◆ Developing **sound financial strategies** ...
- ◆ **Donor harmonization**

- ◆ Managing a GEF transboundary project that involves **three countries of which only two of them are beneficiaries** - what **Mechanisms can be put in place to ensure that the third nation also fulfills their commitment** in order to achieve the intended outcomes?
- ◆ **Transfer of competence and responsibility to the stakeholders** in the programmes
- ◆ Governmental and institutional support towards achieving **sustainable alternative livelihoods**.
- ◆ The project will require a lot of financial support and **human capacity** building.

### Achieving Results and Measuring Impacts

- ◆ Learning how to **evaluate and implement best practices**
- ◆ Identification monitoring and reporting of **impact indicators** (especially in the case of started projects).
- ◆ **Effective communication and coordination**
- ◆ **Enhance cooperation of water policies** and learn GEF International Waters Project experience.
- ◆ **Lack of environmental data to support baseline assessments** in developing countries
- ◆ It would be a great help and really interesting to see a good and **strong roll-up M&E tool** develop, which can **illustrate the annual development of the project as well as the trend over a series of years**.
- ◆ Lack of clarity on the **Criteria to be applied for development of GEF IW projects in the future**.
- ◆ **Implementation of IWRM Plans** in reality in practical terms and how to measure its progress
- ◆ Pursuing management activities whose **positive ecological and societal impacts cannot be easily or even directly ascertained**.
- ◆ Addressing **lack of data/information** (data from more than 17000 water points are recorded in the Lullemeden Aquifer System)
- ◆ While enormous investment is going into international waters around the world and in Africa particularly, however, the **linkage or contribution of the project outcomes to socio-economic development of countries is usually not very obvious**. The need to **ensure the projects are seen to impact on the lives and livelihoods of communities** and this to be **appreciated by Political leadership** of States is a challenge for developmental organizations like NEPAD.
- ◆ The **implementation of recommendations** produced by the various scientific research projects.
- ◆ Meeting the **WSSD targets** reducing land based sources of pollution, introducing and ecosystems approach to marine resource assessment and management by 2010, designating a network of marine protected areas by 2012, and restoration of fish stocks to maximum sustainable yield levels by 2015
- ◆ **Replicating** the best practices from our **demonstration** projects.
- ◆ GEF International Waters Projects have been observed to entrench biodiversity/ecosystems conservation, solid waste management across borders, all for the **tourists' benefit**.
- ◆ **Low efficiency** of the GEF International Waters Projects in Central Asia is the main challenge of there. This phenomenon requires (demands) separate study and analysis. First of all, it is **connected to human qualities**.

### GEF Policy and Procedures

- ◆ Design and preparation of projects for funding in **GEF4**
- ◆ Implement **GEF policies and procedures** share it with stakeholders in the field
- ◆ Challenges in **justifying International Waters Projects for SIDS**
- ◆ How to **improve synergies and linkages with other GEF Programme Areas** - Climate Change, Biodiversity, POPS, and Land Degradation?

- ◆ **Changing priorities** and strategic priorities by GEF-Sec and related implications for the various regions / Water Basins.
- ◆ At this point in time, **clear procedures, expectations and policies from the GEF secretariat.**
- ◆ Clarity in GEF policies; **government ownership** of programme; higher **priority** for environment in government policies
- ◆ Persuading countries to consider the value of accumulated GEF experience and the benefits that would accrue if national policies replicated successful GEF initiatives. GEF's external political lobbying is weak and needs to be reviewed and strengthened.
- ◆ **Commitment from the GEF to long-term environmental governance** strategies and partnerships. If **follow up support** is lacking, and GEF will quickly find its way to the shelf, ignored by countries and donors alike.
- ◆ Adaptation of Project Design to **Delays**
- ◆ **[Project Cycle]** Projects proposed for inclusion under GEF International Waters Projects take, what is in my view, an inordinately long time to be approved. AS such budgets included in those proposals may become irrelevant if and when projects are finally approved. This results in difficulty in procuring essential human and other resources that are very critical to the success of these projects. The problem is compounded by a lack of a mechanism within GEF and associated UN institutions to react to these developments. The burden is left for the host countries to bear through cofinancing mechanisms and almost invariably these countries (many of which are in the third world) are unable to meet this challenge because other societal challenges are of greater concern and resources are extremely scarce. In the final analysis, only the projects suffer. Additionally, even in the few situations where projects are completed satisfactorily, there is usually a problem in sustaining the project and its benefits at the end of the GEF project cycle.
- ◆ The process of **elaboration, approval and disbursement of resources** which sometimes takes too long.
- ◆ Greater **streamlining of project cycle** for GEF support.
- ◆ **High transaction costs** associated with processing new GEF projects.
- ◆ Participating **countries do not fully understand the GEF procedures for project preparation and reporting.**
- ◆ **How to start the project;** How to **ensure countries commitment** (both financially and in activities); what are the **most common mistakes or challenges encountered and how they were solved**

### Other Learning Issues

- ◆ **Capacity Building** for a real change in water resources development and (integrated) management.
- ◆ Inadequate **Technical Expertise** in Water Resource Management
- ◆ To **share the lessons we learned with other international waters projects** and make sure that the **Danube Case which is a lighthouse project from my point of view becomes a driving force for new projects.**
- ◆ Taking into account the fact that many of the GEF International Waters projects have really matured and have an established portfolio, these is a need to build on their achievements by **improving inter-projects cooperation and coordination** including if possible, through the establishment of a **more systematic or institutionalized mechanism for such cooperation and coordination**
- ◆ **Networking** with practitioners -- a unique opportunity for our project, which is to **discover best practices in negotiating and implementing GEF Portfolio IW agreements**
- ◆ Operational interlinkages with **other GEF IW projects** in the project areas (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific)
- ◆ **Scaling up and replication** of good policies/practices that have been developed/demonstrated at the subnational/national levels

- ◆ Engaging corporate sector/business community in **socially responsible** programs.
- ◆ **Language** problems
- ◆ **Consolidating regional mechanisms for consultations** and **joint actions**
- ◆ National and regional **mechanism on marine and coastal environment management**