

Shared Rivers

Invitation to support and develop UNDP's Shared River Basin Management Initiative

UNDP's Water Governance Programme (WGP) aims to improve water governance at different levels – the community, the national and the trans-boundary. Considering that as much as 80% of global river flow stems from 263 international river basins, which in turn cover 45 % of the earth's land surface and house 40% of the world's population, the transboundary level constitutes an important part of the programme.

Background

The Shared River Basin Management Initiative draws on the lessons and experiences of UNDP's initial project in this field known as the Transboundary River Basin project (TRIB). TRIB was established to support riparian countries in basin-wide dialogues to strengthen emerging basin institutions. It was financed through a global UNDP trust fund established in January 2000 with funds from the US government.

Development Objective & Strategic Niche

- . Support regional dialogue and build political will among decision makers in developing countries to jointly address integrated management and development of shared rivers, and
- . Build capacity and provide support for the development of legal mechanisms and associated institutional structures for shared rivers management

This will be achieved by providing strategic support for improved water governance of international rivers to advance socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically efficient management and development of the water resources.

objective

Enhance natural resource management
Improve the livelihoods of poor people
Maximize benefits across the basin and promote regional stability

niche

Support the political process between riparian countries by:
Facilitating and building capacity for the development of legal mechanisms and associated institutional structures
Increasing stakeholder participation
Empowering weak groups

Partners

UNDP is currently collaborating with:

Cap-Net
Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources Management

DGIS (Netherlands)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

GEF
Global Environment Facility

Sida
Swedish International Development Agency

US State Department

WB
World Bank



Shared River Basin Management Initiative

UNDP & Water

As the United Nation's principal provider of development advice UNDP is seen by national governments as a neutral and long-standing partner to enhance capacities for, and facilitate stakeholder dialogue. UNDP, locally established in 166 countries, has played a catalytic role in fostering governance reform in several major river and lake basins in the world, e.g. the Mekong, Niger, Lake Chad, Nile, Danube, Okavango, Tumen, Dnieper, Aral Sea, and the Caspian Sea. UNDP approaches international rivers through a number of ways including environmental management and the political process. As an implementing agency for the Global Environment Facility (GEF), it has a large global portfolio (US\$300 million.) tackling the environmental management of international waters (including shared marine systems).

Approach

The project will draw upon UNDP's network for capacity building, Cap-Net. It will also collaborate closely with the World Bank and UNEP GEF International Waters programmes in river basins. The approach will be to build on and complement on-going activities, be flexible and demand responsive, and offer donor partners the opportunity to support activities including:

- . Organizing workshops to increase awareness of the necessity and benefits of addressing joint management and development of shared rivers.
- . Coordinating capacity building training sessions to promote dialogue and joint decision making.
- . Capturing, documenting and sharing experience between river basins, especially within geographic regions.
- . Enhancing stakeholders' technical competencies, negotiation and conflict resolution skills.
- . Strengthening mechanisms and capacity for the development of legal conventions and institutional structures to effectively implement shared rivers management.
- . Supporting local riparian stakeholder participation (communities, municipalities etc.)

Highlights of TRIB Project Accomplishments

Mekong Basin	Enhanced communications between the Mekong River Commission and its member countries.
Niger Basin	Production of a report on Data Sharing Mechanism between the Niger Basin Authority and its member countries, and among the member countries themselves.
Rio Frio Sub-basin	Facilitation of cross-border dialogue between Costa Rica and Nicaragua for watershed management and reforestation activities.
Senegal Basin	Support to the four riparian countries in building an inclusive institution for basin management.
Kura-Aras Basin	Facilitation of riparian dialogue to design basin-wide management of international waters.
Nile Basin	Production of a Cooperative Framework Document.
University Partnership	Development of curricula on transboundary river management through a partnership of universities from across the world



Thank you for your interest in UNDP's Shared River Basin Management Initiative.

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