



## **International Hydrological Programme**

41<sup>st</sup> session of the IHP Bureau  
(Paris, 26 – 28 March 2008)

### **PROPOSED CATEGORY 2 WATER-RELATED CENTRES**

Item 6.2 of the provisional agenda

#### **SUMMARY**

This document briefly describes the new proposals received from Member States for the establishment of category 2 centres (centres under the auspices of UNESCO) that need to be considered by the IHP Bureau as a prerequisite to their submission to the forthcoming 18<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council to be held in Paris on 9-14 June 2008.

The Bureau may wish to endorse the new proposals described in this document based on the consideration of the information provided in the proposal documents for each that has been made available to the Bureau Members. The Bureau must observe the requirements set forth in the newly adopted "Strategy for UNESCO category 1 and category 2 water-related centres" approved by the IHP Council.

## **BACKGROUND**

1. The rising demand from Member States for the establishment and operation of water-related centres under the auspices of UNESCO and the need to ensure the efficient and harmonious expansion and functioning of the network of centres led the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP (Paris, 3-7 July 2006) to the adoption of Resolution XVII-7 – *The development of a strategy for UNESCO's category I and category II water-related institutes and centres*. The implementation of this resolution led to the adoption of such a strategy by the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau and thereafter of the IHP Council in an out-of-session consultation. This strategy is contained in document IHP/Bur-XL/8 rev. (Consolidated) *Strategy for UNESCO's category 1 and category 2 water-related centres*. More details on the implementation of the strategy may be found in document IHP/Bur-XLI/12.

2. The strategy calls for the Bureau to examine new proposals for category 2 water-related centres and to issue the appropriate recommendations regarding each proposal, and if appropriate, for onward transmission of the proposal to the IHP Council. To this end, the Bureau should ensure it addresses all relevant items referred to in the strategy be adequately covered (see Annex to this document). Based on this, the Bureau will decide whether (1) it endorses the proposal and transfers it to the Council as it is, with its own comments if any; or (2) recommends the resubmission of a revised proposal through the Secretariat, for an out-of-session reconsideration, before it decides whether or not it will transfer it to the Council; (3) it deems the proposal not acceptable because of a legal, formal or substance flaw, and thus the proposal is not transmitted to the Council.

3. The new centres proposed to be established, whose proposals are to be considered by the Bureau are listed below, along with short descriptive paragraphs. These description are meant to be for reference only, as the Bureau Members should refer to the proposals submitted in response to the requirements of the newly adopted IHP strategy for water-related centres which has been made available and posted in the web, at: <http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/bureau/41st/>.

## **NEW PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE IHP BUREAU**

### **International Centre on Coastal Ecohydrology and Climate Change (Portugal)**

4. The Permanent Delegation of Portugal to UNESCO submitted to the Secretary of IHP a proposal for establishment of an International Centre on Coastal Ecohydrology and Climate Change under the auspices of UNESCO. The proposed centre, to be created at the University of Algarve in Faro, aims to develop strategic approaches for coastal populations to adapt to impacts of climate change on coastal ecosystems. By promoting international cooperation, knowledge exchange, capacity building and education globally, in particular with the Mediterranean region, Latin America, Africa and Asia, the proposed centre will contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. The proposal was accompanied by letters from the IHP National Commission of Portugal, the University of Algarve, the Association of the Portuguese Speaking Universities, and other international collaborators.

### **Central Asian Regional Glaciological Centre (Republic of Kazakhstan)**

5. The Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to UNESCO and the IHP National Committee of Kazakhstan submitted a draft proposal for the establishment of a Central Asian Regional Glaciological Center under the auspices of UNESCO. The Institute of Geography of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan would host the proposed centre. It would be established according to the legislation of Kazakhstan, which will allow it to run in full compliance with UNESCO rules and regulations for category 2 institutes and centres. The government of Kazakhstan will provide the necessary financial resources for the establishment and operation of the centre, and thus there will be no financial implication for UNESCO.

6. The workshop "Assessment of snow-ice and water resources of Asia" (November 2006) acknowledged that the lack of a monitoring system in Central Asia is responsible for inadequate information on glacier mass dynamics. This is a critical problem in the region since glaciers are key indicators of global climate change. The need for a regional centre on glacier research in Central Asia under the auspices of UNESCO was recognized. The proposed centre is expected to promote and coordinate monitoring to improve scientific understanding of climate-driven changes in snow and icepack in glaciers, in permafrost and in the flow system connecting melt water to rivers and lakes in the lowlands.

### **Centre for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Caribbean Island States (Dominican Republic)**

7. Pursuant to the recommendation by the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau, and in conformity to the decision in document 177 EX/68 of the 177<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's Executive Board, which required the application of the guidelines of the strategy for UNESCO's category 1 and category 2 centres, the Dominican Republic has resubmitted the proposal for a centre for the sustainable management of water Resources in the Caribbean Island States. The general scope of the centre has been adjusted so that it falls fully within the programmatic range of IHP.

8. The central objective of the Centre would be to generate and transfer scientific and technological knowledge related to sustainable water management in islands, so as to increase the practical knowledge and improve the capacities for a more efficient use of water resources, considering the social, environmental and economic dimensions of the Caribbean Island States. It would be hosted by INDRHI (National Institute of for the Development of Water Resources, acronym in Spanish) and would enjoy the necessary autonomy to operate as a category 2 centre. It would be the first UNESCO water-related sub-regional centre in the Caribbean concentrating on the specific problems of island states.

### **The International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM) (United States of America)**

9. The International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM), established by the U.S. Army Institute for Water Resources (IWR) in 2007 in collaboration with U.S. institutions and organizations sharing an interest in the advancement of the science and practice of integrated water resources management (IWRM) around the globe, now seeks the designation of a UNESCO category 2 centre. This would greatly facilitate its capability to engage within the UNESCO water family by serving as a focal point for increasing U.S. contributions to the International Hydrological Programme (IHP). It will accomplish this by working in collaboration with key university, federal agency and non-

governmental partners who have agreed to serve as organizational nodes for accomplishing the Centre's work. The overall mission of ICIWaRM is defined as the "*advancement of the science and practice of integrated water resources management (IWRM) to address water security and other water-related challenges by regional and global action, through new knowledge, innovative technologies, collaborative interdisciplinary scientific research, networking, training and capacity development, within the framework of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP)*".

10. ICIWaRM's water science node is led by an academic consortium headed by the University of Arizona, and also includes initial partnerships with the Universities of New Hampshire, Oregon State, Florida International, and Colorado State. The professional practice sector is led by the American Society of Civil Engineers' Environmental and Water Resources Institute (ASCE-EWRI) with the American Water Resources Association (AWRA). ICIWaRM technical activities will also leverage other USACE IWR collaborative partners.

### **Centre for Water Science and Hydropolitics (Sweden)**

11. The Stockholm University (Department of Physical Geography and Quaternary Geology) jointly with the Stockholm International Water Institute have very recently submitted (March 2008) a preliminary proposal for the establishment of a UNESCO category 2 Centre for water science and hydropolitics. The Centre would be hosted at the Stockholm University. The Centre would aim to reinforce and expand the work of the UNESCO initiative on water and cooperation: PCCP by promoting and developing:

- Interaction, integration and linkages between major water resource challenges facing politicians, managers all over the world; and
- Opportunities to meet these challenges offered by integrated water science, education, technology and information system developments.

12. As of this writing (18 March 2008), the IHP Secretariat has asked for additional information on this proposed centre according to the requirements of the strategy for water-related centres that will be made available to the Bureau as soon as it is forthcoming.

ANNEX

**Excerpt from document IHP/Bur-XL/8 rev. (Consolidated) Strategy for UNESCO's  
Category 1 and Category 2 Water-related Centres**

***“Evaluation of proposed centres***

40. Proposals for establishing a new centre under the auspices of UNESCO are first considered by the IHP Bureau that submits its comments for consideration by the IHP Intergovernmental Council. The Council shall examine the proposal and decide on endorsing the establishment of the centre. If endorsed, the Council will request the Member State to submit the relevant proposal to the Director-General of UNESCO, in line with the rules stipulated in 33 C/19. The Council will also request assistance of the IHP Secretariat in the preparation of the documentation to be submitted to the governing organs of UNESCO for approval and authorization for the signature of the agreement between UNESCO and the government of the proposing Member State.

41. The proposal for a new centre shall be submitted by the IHP National Committee or IHP National Focal Point (as relevant) to the IHP Secretariat at least two months prior to the session of the IHP Bureau that is to propose it to the forthcoming session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council. The comments of the Bureau, along with other supporting documents, will be distributed to members of the Intergovernmental Council for consideration at least four weeks prior to that session. When a proposal for the establishment of a centre is considered by the IHP Council, it does not imply any financial commitment of the part of UNESCO (in conformity with the stipulations of the corresponding guidelines document 33 C/19). The proposal must set out:

- a) The proposed name of the new centre;
- b) Where the proposed centre will be located, along with the name of the host institution;
- c) The draft terms of reference for the proposed centre, which are to be agreed by the IHP Intergovernmental Council;
- d) Why it is needed as a UNESCO category 2 Centre, and the type of cooperation sought with UNESCO (nature, participation in activities, UNESCO representation within governing bodies, etc.);
- e) The proposed programme of the proposed new centre, including its objectives and functions, targets, deliverables and beneficiaries, with the societal benefits;
- f) The proposed programme should indicate how the centre will act with other bodies with interests in the same area of science and in water resources management;
- g) How the proposed centre will cooperate with other UNESCO centres;
- h) What facilities and expertise will be made available to implement the proposed programme;
- i) How the proposed programme and its objectives address and meet the objectives of the current phase of the IHP, as well as UNESCO's strategic programme objectives;
- j) The existing or future legal status of the proposed new centre, particularly in terms of the legislation of the Member State in which it will be established;
- k) The respective responsibilities of the Member State or States concerned and of UNESCO (nature and the duration of the contribution expected from UNESCO; obligations incumbent upon the Member State or States vis-à-vis the centre and its activities);
- l) The undertaking by the Member State or States concerned to take the necessary measures for the establishment of the proposed new centre (where it has not yet been set up);

- m) The sources of funding for the proposed centre and the method of financing (the origin of its various resources and its legal authority to accept such resources as subventions, gifts and legacies or payments for services rendered);
- n) A draft budget with capital and running costs;
- o) How the proposed new centre is to be managed, including its governing bodies;
- p) A timetable for the activation of the proposed new centre, containing the proposed launch date and important landmarks in the implementation of the programme.

42. The proposal must not exceed 4000 words in length. It may be appropriate for proposals to be accompanied by letters of support from relevant bodies and institutions, particularly from the National Commission of the UNESCO Member State(s) where the proposed new centre will be located.

43. The IHP Bureau shall examine the proposal submitted and issue its comments and recommendation on the proposed establishment of a new centre to the IHP Intergovernmental Council and to the Member State(s) that made the proposal, based on the following questions:

- a) Does the proposed centre contribute to UNESCO's strategic programme objectives, in particular, objectives of the relevant strategic phase of the IHP?
- b) How does the proposed new centre fit into the network of already-established category 1 Institute and category 2 centres, both thematically and geographically?
- c) Do the functions and thematic specializations of the proposed new centre fall clearly and justifiably within UNESCO's mandate and field of competence, or is there duplication with the mandate of another UN system agency?
- d) What kind of regional and/or international impact will the proposed centre have?
- e) What does the presence of UNESCO contribute to the constitution and functioning of the centre, or conversely, is the involvement of UNESCO necessary to the establishment and effective operation of the centre?

44. The IHP Intergovernmental Council shall consider the proposal and the comments of the IHP Bureau in order to issue its decision. The views of the Council on the proposed centre should be taken into account in the formulation of the documentation that would be prepared to the Executive Board."