



## **International Hydrological Programme**

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

# **COOPERATION BETWEEN IHP AND THE UN WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (WWAP)**

Item 10.2 of the provisional agenda

### **Summary**

This document presents the contributions of IHP to WWAP in its 3<sup>rd</sup> phase (2006-2009) and information about the future of WWAP.

The Council may wish to note the report and comment on the development of WWAP. The IHP National Committees are invited to encourage potential contributions to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase of WWAP.

## BACKGROUND

1. The UN system-wide World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) represents the coalition of 24 United Nations agencies that constitute UN Water (the coordination mechanism of the UN System on freshwater), and contribute to its work. It is hosted and led by UNESCO; the Secretariat of WWAP is structurally located within the Division of Water Sciences of UNESCO. By the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the programme (2006), WWAP had established itself as the UN reporting mechanism regarding the freshwater situation throughout the world. The first issue of the World Water Development Report (WWDR-1), the main output of WWAP, was launched in 2003 in Kyoto. As in the case of the first WWDR, the second issue (WWDR-2) was prepared by the WWAP Secretariat, with support from the IHP Secretariat, and with contributions of other UN partner agencies and secretariats. The WWDR-2, entitled *Water, a shared responsibility*, was launched in the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City, Mexico, in March 2006 by the Director-General of UNESCO on behalf of the UN system. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the report (WWDR-3) is currently being prepared by the Secretariat of the WWAP under the leadership of the newly appointed Coordinator of the Programme.

## RESOURCES

2. Italy's assistance is crucial to ensure the continuity of the programme. It is currently contributing generously with both extrabudgetary funding and new premises to UNESCO, for the use of WWAP.

3. The funding consists of a 2.5M Euro/year grant for three years, starting from February 2007, which represents a substantial increase compared with the previous two phases. It is understood that, before the end of this three-yearly funding, Italian Parliament will ratify the MoU and the funding will become part of the national budget.

4. Concerning the premises, Umbria Region donated, on a basis of a free rent, the complex called Villa La Colombella. The Villa, situated 20 km North of Perugia, consists of 4 buildings and gardens, on an approximate surface of 2 hectares. It offers office space for 40 people, conference and meeting rooms for 250 people and a guesthouse with approx. 50 rooms.

5. On 20 November 2007, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and Mr. Pecoraro Scanio, the Italian Minister of the Environment, made an inaugural visit of the new UNESCO Programme Office for Global Water Assessment in Perugia, Italy.

### ***Signature of the Agreements***

6. Four agreements have been stipulated in order to transfer WWAP secretariat to Perugia. As of this writing, out of these, three have been signed and one is ready to be signed.

#### **a) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Italian Government**

- The MoU has been signed on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008. This agreement states the general terms of the WWAP secretariat presence in Italy, including privileges and immunities.

#### **b) Agreement between FAO and UNESCO concerning security services**

- Still pending. This agreement regulates the management of security at the new premises. FAO will recruit guards on behalf of UNESCO, with UNESCO providing financial cover to the operation.

**c) Fund In Trust (FIT) with Italian Ministry for environment, sea and land protection**

- Signed 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2007. The funds arrived at UNESCO and have been allotted on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2007. This document is based on the project proposal submitted by UNESCO to the Italian Government.

**d) Premises Agreement with Umbria Region**

- Signed 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007. This is the rent agreement, at zero cost for UNESCO, that regulates WWAP's secretariat presence in the new premises. It has to be highlighted that Umbria Region is going to cover also all expenses (electricity, heating, maintenance) but telecommunications.

7. The Secretariat of the WWAP is currently working within the premises of UNESCO's Division of Water Sciences at the Organization's Headquarters in Paris. It is expected to move to its new offices in Perugia, Italy in the spring of 2008.

8. Before WWAP secretariat will be able to move to Perugia, the new premises are to be made secure according to UN Guidelines. FAO, which is the Agency responsible for security of United Nations Offices on the Italian Territory, provided detailed guidelines in order to make the new premises secure.

9. According to the Premises Agreement signed in July 2007, Umbria Region is in charge of implementing security works. These works are expected to end by late spring 2008. After that date, the WWAP secretariat will eventually move to its new seat.

10. The Japanese Government also contributes to the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of WWAP by funding part of the activities of the conflict resolution initiative (PCCP, see below for more details) and seconding a Programme Specialist at the Division of Water Sciences.

## **SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

11. UNESCO-IHP is also extensively involved in the actual scientific work of the WWAP. It is contributing to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the WWDR. It is facilitating and coordinating the chapter on the Status of the Resource. UNESCO staff, Category II centers and IHP networks are providing scientific contributions to the chapter. The Chapter will describe what more do decision-makers need to know about the planet's water resources and the possible impacts of climate change on the distribution of this resource? What resources are really 'available' for development? It will also discuss the availability of data needed to determine these factors so that water managers and sector managers may carry out integrated water resources management.

12. Through its PCCP initiative, UNESCO-IHP is also making a cross-cutting contribution on transboundary water issues, to the four core chapters of WWDR-3. This contribution is providing information on:

- The status of the transboundary water resources;
- The impact of current uses on transboundary water resources;
- The expected impact of the global drivers for change on transboundary water resources; and above all;
- The response options that could serve decision makers in alleviating tensions related to the management of transboundary water resources, and promoting cooperation around it.

13. Through its PCCP initiative, IHP will also contribute to WWAP by facilitating multi-level and interdisciplinary dialogues in order to foster peace, co-operation and development related to the management of shared water resources. PCCP will indeed conduct a number of joint research and training activities such as:

- A case study on the Mono River
- A case study on the Ostua Metapan Aquifer
- Training of trainers and young professionals about cooperation building techniques in the Middle East.

14. Through these efforts, concerned parties will find opportunities to enhance their knowledge of their shared water resources, while achieving progress on the cooperation and development fronts, as well.

15. IHP is also expected to make significant contributions to the scientific publications that will accompany the WWDR. It is suggested that IHP will indeed support the research work on and, coordinate the publications related to, the following topics:

- a. Droughts and Floods: Adaptation Strategies,
- b. Study on the relationship between climate changes and vulnerability in already unstable areas, such as in the Middle-East,
- c. Glacier melt and Water Resources,
- d. Water Related Risk Management,
- e. Emerging urban water issues
- f. IWRM Implementation in Basins, Sub-basins and Aquifers: State of the art review
- g. Transboundary aquifers and related groundwater issues
- h. The trends and tendencies of water cooperation and conflicts.

16. Upon the transfer of the WWAP Secretariat to Perugia, it is expected that a number of scientific meetings, symposia, conferences be jointly organized as well as capacity development programs to assist developing countries enhance their assessment and monitoring capability.