International Waters Objectives for GEF 7

- **Objective 1: Strengthening Blue Economy Opportunities**

  **Strategic Action 1.1: Sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems**
  - Develop and implement environmentally sustainable Blue Economy strategies;
  - Establish and support existing marine protected areas in key biodiversity hotspots and coastal habitats;
  - Restore degraded key habitats;
  - Mainstream marine area based management and spatial tools in regional entities;
  - Create multi-state cooperation frameworks in transboundary deltas including an integrated S2S approach;
  - Formulate and formalize cooperative legal and institutional frameworks built on TDAs/SAPs approach;
  - Stimulate private sector engagement, through relevant industry sectoral roundtables and industry groups;
  - Engage with national, regional and global stakeholders to increase collaboration and cross support through IWR-LEARN;
  - Foster collaboration among LMEs, Regional Seas conventions and RFMOs to protect and restore these key habitats.

- **Objective 3: Enhance water security in freshwater ecosystems**

  **Strategic Action 3.3: Investments in water, food, energy and environmental security**
  - Supply chain approaches for increased water efficiency and reduction of ecosystems pressures;
  - Increase water efficiency, reuse, and reduce point and non-point sources of pollution addressing both primary and emerging pollutants, along the S2S continuum;
  - De-risk innovation in development through piloting of innovative technologies;
  - Nature based approaches to improve infiltration, avoid sedimentation and erosion through IWRM and SLM;
  - Protect and rehabilitate aquatic ecosystems, especially wetland areas, river banks, mangroves, and other key habitats;
  - Establish minimum environmental flows to maintain healthy ecosystems and aquatic biodiversity;
  - Sustain freshwater fisheries and aquaculture via improved management strategies and policy formulation processes;
  - Support fragile and/or conflict affected countries, via a country based pilot to fully engage in the transboundary process.
Welcome to the home of GEF International Waters projects

IWR LEARN is the Global Environment Facility’s (GEF) International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network. The IWR LEARN project was established to strengthen transboundary water management around the globe by collecting and sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to common problems across the GEF International Waters portfolio. It promotes learning among project managers, country official, implementing agencies, and other partners.
The GEF International Waters project portfolio

Use the mapping tool to learn about specific projects, regions or waterbodies. Discover basins where the GEF has made project investments, or see all the transboundary aquifers, large marine ecosystems, lakes and river basins with or without GEF IW projects. Clicking on a specific ecosystem will inform you about key results from the basin as well as provide you a link to further details about activities, projects, documents and further content associated with the basin.

Visualization Tool
(https://iwlearn.net/iw-projects)

Documents
(https://iwlearn.net/documents)
➢ IWC 8 Source to Sea Theme
➢ Targeted Regional Workshops
➢ Twinning/Learning Exchanges
➢ Source to Sea Action Platform
➢ GEF IW Experience Notes
➢ GEF IW Project Results Notes
➢ GEF IW Project Publications
Lessons Learned:

• For S2S to succeed, there is a need for a much stronger than usual governance system

• Key challenges and barriers that have to be addressed to successfully design and implement S2S approaches:
  
  • Multiple levels of governance and different cultures
  • Lack of consistency in stakeholder and government engagement
  • Mismatch between boundaries (cultural, jurisdictional, biological) of conservation objectives
  • Limited financial resources
  • Weak capacity at all levels of management
  • Complicated and complex nature of S2S
  • Differences and conflicts of priorities amongst different groups involved
Collaboration in the Seas of East Asia
PEMSEA

Danube River and Black Sea Collaboration

Bay of Bengal LME

Caribbean Small Island Developing States and links to the larger Caribbean Sea Basin (IWCAM)

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR GOVERNING AND MANAGING KEY FLOWS IN A SOURCE-TO-SEA CONTINUUM

A STAP Advisory Document