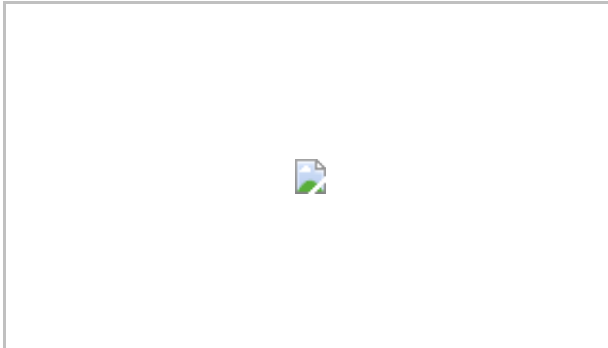


In this issue:[First Groundwater Management in River Basin](#)[Organisations Consultative Workshop](#)[Revisiting the Conflict Resolution and Negotiating Skills for IWRM Training Manual](#)[Water Legislation for Improved Transboundary Water Governance in Latin America](#)[Cap-Net Brasil Updates](#)[Capacity development on Gender and Water - A](#)[Collaboration between GWA and Cap-Net](#)**First Groundwater Management in River Basin Organisations Consultative Workshop**

In cooperation with the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) and the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), a consultative workshop on Groundwater management in African River Basin Organizations (RBOs) was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 12 - 14 February 2013, as the first of its kind, demonstrating a breakthrough in this field. This should encourage all parties involved that there is a need to move from catalytic to transformative action at an urgent pace, with the

objective of integrating groundwater management into the core mandate of L/RBOs. Main discussions focussed around the critical need to address this 'invisible' resource, aiming to transform the approach 'out of sight, out of mind' into fully incorporating groundwater into all major surface water-related discussions, and harmonise rather than treating them as two separate topics. The outcome of the discussions is a training manual should be developed aiming to address decision makers as well as water users and professionals, in cooperation with the groundwater expert team of the World Bank, IGRAC and Cap-Net, building on the training package on groundwater in IWRM developed earlier by the partners (<http://www.cap-net.org/node/2076>).

There was a common voice highlighting main issues and challenges shared by all RBOs, which proved this workshop was indeed effective in bringing together RBOs from throughout the continent to show the common challenges as well as ideas for improvement. There is a need for increased investment in human resources and expertise to enable capacity development, and introduce GW expertise in each RBO as well as at government level.

Efficient monitoring tools are needed to track progress or regress when dealing with GW and the situations surrounding it. There is a strong need to bridge the gap between monitoring of SW and GW to ensure that GW is also addressed in management. A common overarching database is critically needed in order to be used for the sharing of information and transfer of knowledge where all RBOs can have access. Moreover, a mechanism to ensure standardization of quality control will ultimately lead to streamlining not solely on data collection, but also equipment, practices and standards.

Accountability must be placed on all RBOs, as well as national institutions with regard to claiming responsibility of data collection and knowledge transfer, possibly by establishing regional database. The development of such a tool would be a breakthrough in the level of knowledge sharing and capacity building.

For funding, it is important to approach governments explaining the economic and social benefits that result from addressing GW, and placing it at the top of development agendas.

For further information, please contact Vanessa Vaessen at vanessa.vaessen@bgr.de

Revisiting the Conflict Resolution and Negotiating Skills for IWRM Training Manual

In 2008, the Cap-Net supported training manual entitled Conflict Resolution and Negotiation for IWRM was produced by a team of writer-practitioners who had worked with the unpublished materials for several years previously. The manual has since been translated into Spanish and French by Cap-Net and also into Russian for use in an OSCE-UNDP supported workshop in Tajikistan in 2010. It has been 5 years since and various workshops have revealed that, while the structure is basically sound, there are gaps in its content.



The techniques offered in the Cap-Net manual are generally considered to be standard practice, with the Cap-Net manual's advantage being that it has a clear focus on water resources. In order to update and keep the manual dynamic and relevant, a workshop will take place in March 2013 in order to address these gaps. Additionally, the manual will be revisited by bringing together a number of trainers and practitioners who have hands-on experience with the manual to reflect on what has worked and what has not, capturing lessons learned through their training experiences, in the aim of improving the current training manual.

The current manual can be viewed here <http://www.cap-net.org/node/1300>

Water Legislation for Improved Transboundary Water Governance in Latin America



Around 40% of the global population lives in international river basins (source: GWP). As water security is at risk due to climate change impacts and growing population, water is becoming increasingly scarce and international conflicts over water allocation are bound to emerge. It is therefore essential to provide tools that will enable shared water resources to be managed efficiently, sustainably and equitably. This entails an understanding of the shared benefits resulting from sound water management and the establishment of collaborative governance mechanisms between concerned countries.

The main objective of the workshop is to contribute to improved water governance in Latin America through strengthening technical and institutional capacities of governmental entities, academia and NGOs around transboundary water legislation issues in order to support national governments in the development of future legislative frameworks, collaboration is developed between the Universidad Externado de Colombia, LA-WETnet and Cap-Net, Agencia Nacional de Aguas de Brasil, Universidad de Costa Rica, UICN, University of Dundee IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science and GWP South America. A workshop is planned in Bogota in April 2013. The partners will engage in the organisation of a Latin American course on international waters legislation, and the development of a manual on this subject as a tool for training and reaching out a wider audience.

For more information on the collaborative programme and workshop please contact: Damián Indij at damian.indij@gmail.com

To visit the GWP website, click here <http://www.gwp.org/>

Cap-Net Brasil Updates

Cap-Net Brazil started its activities this year under coordination of Jaime Bastos, taking over from Ninon Machado, who sadly passed away in September, 2012. Cap-Net Brasil is redesigning its website, with new features in an easy to navigate homepage loaded with information and technical articles from Network partners. If you have a technical article or information you wish to contribute, we would appreciate your collaboration. Please send it to capnet@capnet-brasil.org

To visit the Cap-Net Brasil website, click here www.capnet-brasil.org



Capacity development on Gender and Water - A Collaboration between GWA and Cap-Net



A Tutorial entitled 'Why Gender Matters' was produced 7 years ago, and although large parts of the text remains relevant and appropriate, increasing new experiences in the sector can enrich the existing texts. There is still a high demand for the tutorial however it is time to revise and renew it. With new developments and processes, it is necessary to address the current themes and breakthroughs in order to make the tutorial dynamic and up-to-date. It is ever more important to address not only WHY gender matters, but also HOW gender matters.

In collaboration with GWA and **Cap-Net**, a revision of the tutorial and other training material is underway, with considerations of new topics to be included range from climate change, adaptation and mitigation, to food security, land and water ownership, to hygiene and education. To implement this, a kick-off workshop will be organized from 21 to 27 March 2013 in South Africa. The aim is to launch a global Training of Trainers (ToT) to equip trainers to mainstream gender as well as technical aspects in their training, and to introduce the tutorial to water managers for self-learning.

Another upcoming joint activity is to launch e-courses which are interactive, with regular on-line contact during the course. We would begin with a trial e-learning course with the objective to yield crucial information for more efficient and effective use. GWA is receiving a large number of demands for training, and unfortunately demands cannot always be met. An e-course helps extending the outreach at relatively low costs.

The tutorial can be accessed here: <http://cap-net.org/node/1517>

To visit the GWA website, click here www.genderandwater.org