

Lead Stories



[GEF announce the approval of an innovative program to support sustainable fisheries](#)

On World Oceans Day, the GEF is proud to announce the approval of an innovative program to support sustainable fisheries, the Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI). CFI was approved at last week's 48th GEF council and represents a strategic partnership to demonstrate holistic ecosystem based management and improved governance of coastal fisheries. The CFI addresses all coastal fisheries in the EEZ, which complements GEF's comprehensive and long-standing support to multi-country cooperation for sustainable management of the world's Large Marine Ecosystems.



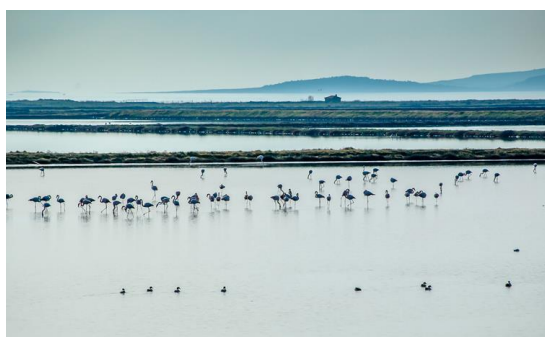
[UN General Assembly adopts resolution to develop new marine biodiversity treaty for the high seas and beyond](#)

A landmark resolution was adopted earlier today (19 June 2015) by a consensus of UN member states, to develop a legally-binding treaty for the conservation of marine life beyond national territorial waters – that area of the ocean shared by all. The resolution formalizes the recommendations made last January by the UN Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group ("UN Working Group") which was tasked with assessing the feasibility of a new treaty, and signals a major step forward toward convening an intergovernmental negotiating conference that would finalize the terms of the new treaty, possibly in 2018.



[GEF for Sustainable Cities – New global program launched to develop and manage cities sustainably](#)

11 countries, 23 pilot cities and an investment of USD 150 million in GEF grants plus USD 1.5 billion in additional financing from other sources: The Global Environment Facility (GEF) today approved a new global program to address the challenge of a rapidly urbanizing world and the subsequent pressure on cities.



[World Oceans Day highlights importance of healthy oceans](#)

8 June 2015: The world has celebrated World Oceans Day, which took place under the theme, 'Healthy oceans, healthy planet.' The day drew attention to the importance of protecting and sustainably managing the world's oceans as well as the central role of oceans in biodiversity, climate, hydrology and other Earth systems.

Project News

[Blue Forests Project presented before the French Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ecology](#)

[Blue Forests] On 9 June, the Blue Forests Project was presented before the French Ministry of Environment and the French Ministry of Foreign affairs. This event followed the celebration of World Ocean Day and a seminar was organized by the University of West Brittany in Brest (UBO), through its Center for the Law and Economics of the Sea (AMURE), with the support of both French ministries. The main theme was "Blue Carbon – what scope for mitigation projects currently?" The meeting took place in the Aquarium de la Porte Dorée in Paris.

[Flood and Drought Management Tools project at the Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute](#)

[Flood and Drought Management Tools] During the three-week Thailand visit by the Danish Hydraulic Institute team (Jakob Luchner and Neils Riegels) from the F&DMT project, Danish Hydraulic Institute (DHI), Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), Thai Meteorological Department (TMD), Royal Irrigation Department (RID), The International Water Association (IWA), and Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (HAI), two meetings were held to discuss drought management components: input and output process; bias correction methodologies; and operational seasonal prediction.

[Essential EAFM trainings in Malaysia lead to deeper trust and confidence among stakeholders combating overfishing](#)

[CTI-South East Asia] The Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle-Southeast Asia (CTI-SEA) published its second experience note on building know-how on the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) in Sabah on 18 June 2015. The paper discussed lessons and benefits from working closely with partners from the Department of Fisheries Sabah (DOF) Sabah and DOF Malaysia in conducting two Essential EAFM trainings. The collaboration not only led to cost-savings for the agencies involved but also in building trust and confidence among stakeholders who are now working together to apply EAFM. Stakeholder engagement is a crucial element in the transboundary management of large marine ecosystems.

[Science revives centuries-old trade, cultural links](#)

[Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services] Research is at the core of understanding and providing solutions to questions cutting across themes of ecosystem services, business, system dynamics and behavioral change.

[Empowering the vulnerable and marginalized groups from the coastal region](#)

[Kenya Coastal Development] KCDP engaged members of the community from vulnerable and marginalized groups (VMG) from 25th – 29th of May 2015 at Mombasa Beach Hotel, Mombasa County. The agenda of the workshop was to enable the community stakeholders understand objectives of KCDP and to develop action plans for KCDP support.

[Reunión Internacional ADT](#)

[La Plata Basin] Los días 23 y 24 de abril se llevó a cabo en Foz de Iguazu, Brasil, la Reunión Internacional de Análisis Diagnóstico Transfronterizo de la Cuenca del Plata.

[Taking Stock of the CTI-CFF Program’s Progress and Future Directions](#)

[Coral Triangle Knowledge Network] The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) has made remarkable progress yet much work still needs to be done. A number of technical and implementation gaps exist at the level of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) as well as the respective National Plans of Action (NPOAs).

Partner News

[Paperback version of "Governing International Watercourses" now available](#)

he book “Governing International Watercourses. River Basin Organizations and the sustainable governance of internationally shared rivers and lakes” is now available as paperback version. This book focuses on River Basin Organizations as the key institutions for managing internationally shared water resources. This includes a comparative analysis of all River Basin Organizations worldwide and three in-depth case studies from three different continents. The detailed case studies are the Senegal (West Africa), Mekong (South-east Asia) and Danube (Europe) rivers.

[UNEP-WCMC Annual Report highlights mapping of global ecosystem assets](#)

The UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) released its 2014 annual report, highlighting the Centre's work in support of biodiversity-related decision making, including the world's first mapping of marine and terrestrial ecosystem assets.

[High-level conference reviews UN ‘Water for Life’ Decade](#)

11 June 2015: The High Level International Conference on the Implementation of the International Decade for Action on ‘Water for Life’ concluded with the adoption of a declaration encouraging action to promote the sustainable management of water resources, in particular in relation to adaptation to climate change.

[Unknown Mediterranean hotspots recognized by Ramsar wetlands convention](#)

An important initiative of Greece leads to the adoption of a resolution for the “Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands”. Greece brings to the spotlight the urgency to conserve the fragile island wetlands of the Mediterranean, through a resolution that was unanimously adopted on June 8th by the plenary of the 12th Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the Convention on Wetlands of international significance (Ramsar, Iran, 1971).

[Protecting the oceans could boost the economy](#)

Done through VU University in Amsterdam and funded by the WWF, the study’s findings show that thousands of jobs could be created and billions of dollars could be generated by 2050 through ocean conservation alone. Better yet, the benefits to our oceans would exceed the costs involved. The study was conducted and released prior to the UN’s post-2015 sustainable development agenda in September. The report recommends ocean conservation items be one of the topics in this meeting.

[WOC “Sustainable Ocean Summit” registration opens](#)

Conference space is limited so register early to secure a place at this unique, timely multi-industry event.

[Global actions needed to restore and protect the world’s natural wetlands](#)

Punta del Este, Uruguay | 2 June 2015- The 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP12) opened today in Punta del Este to assess the progress of the Convention, consider emerging issues and decide on priority actions.

[World’s first ocean cleanup will start in 2016](#)

The world’s first system designed to rid the oceans of plastic pollution will be deployed near Japan in 2016.

[International Biodiversity Day celebrates biodiversity and sustainable development](#)

The 2015 International Day for Biological Diversity convened under the theme, ‘Biodiversity and Sustainable Development,’ reflecting the importance of efforts made to establish a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the relevance of biodiversity for achieving sustainable development. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) organized several events to mark the occasion on 22 May 2015, including one at UN Headquarters in New York, US.

[MORE NEWS](#)

New Projects and Documents

[Experience Note: Building Know-how on the Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management in Sabah](#)

The ADB/GEF-supported Regional Technical Assistance for Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle - Southeast Asia (CTI-SEA) is being implemented in the Sulu-Celebes/Sulawesi Large Marine Ecosystem, which includes Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines (CT3). Experts from the CT3 have identified overexploitation of marine resources and habitat loss among the key problems in transboundary waters. Specifically, the coral reef fisheries in the region have been adversely affected by the high demand for live grouper; rampant illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and the rapidly growing population in coastal areas. To address these critical issues, the CTI-SEA has taken steps to address IUU fishing at both the regional and national levels. In Malaysia, the project is building the capacity of government staff and other concerned stakeholders on the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) for coral reef fishes. This experience note discusses CTI-SEA's training on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management to a total of 56 fisheries personnel and stakeholders under a cost-sharing scheme with DOF Sabah and DOF Malaysia.

[CLME Fisheries Ecosystem Governance Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis](#)

This report addresses the governance aspects of updating the TDA/CCA for the CLME Project. It begins by providing an overview of the governance issues identified in the preliminary TDA. It then reviews the LME Governance Framework that was developed for and adopted by the project as a basis for the project design during the PDF-B. Next the report reviews advances in ocean governance thinking globally and regionally that should assist the project to move forward. Finally, the report considers how the original governance perspective, as well as the subsequent advances in ocean governance, can be incorporated into the new orientation towards a fishery ecosystem-based approach to provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date approach to governance for the CLME Project. This fishery ecosystem-based approach was adopted early in the Full Project which is now oriented towards three fishery ecosystems: the continental shelf, the pelagic and the reef fishery ecosystems.

[Briefing Note on ‘Towards INMS’ and its Regional Demonstration Activities](#)

As a targeted research project, the regional work of Towards INMS is therefore primarily scientific demonstration – focused on evidence gathering. However, part of the nitrogen challenge involves understanding better what are the limitations to action and what are the key drivers for action. Therefore, the regional demonstration helps to provide more concrete information on how key world regions face a mix of similar and contrasting challenges. This is critical information that can then inform developing approaches at the global scale.

[Towards an International Nitrogen Management System \(INMS\) Newsletter - December 2014](#)

This is the first in a series of regular newsletters regarding the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase of the GEF funded project “Targeted Research for improving understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System” that we are now preparing with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

[The Groundwater Governance 'Shared Global Vision for 2030](#)

This is a Vision of the World in 2030 in which countries have taken appropriate and effective action to govern their groundwater in order to reach globally shared goals of social and economic development and avoid irreversible degradation of groundwater resources and their aquifer systems. There is more freshwater stored underground than anywhere else on the planet. Although not all of this groundwater is readily accessible, groundwater has become a critical element in our lives, settlements, cultures and economies, as a prime source of water and as a factor in environmental health and climate change adaptation. For all too long now, groundwater has too often been ‘abandoned to chance’ – despite growing resource utilization and dependence. Therefore, a Globally Shared Groundwater Governance Vision has been generated through a global process of consultation with groundwater professionals, users and managers. It is an ‘urgent call for systematic action’, recognizing that the ‘price of doing nothing’ will be especially high, in terms of lost freshwater reserves at a time when groundwater storage is critical for sustaining water security and adapting to climate variability.

[Global Diagnostic on Groundwater Governance](#)

The document comprises of baseline review of the science, policies and experience and a series of five regional consultations and diagnostic studies.

MORE [PROJECTS](#) AND [DOCUMENTS](#)

Events in July

[New Directions in International Water Law Symposium](#)

3 July | Scotland, UK

[World Leaders' Conservation Forum 2015](#)

7-9 July | Jeju City, South Korea

[Our Common Future Under Climate Change](#)

7-10 July | Paris, France

[Oceania Regional Conservation Forum](#)

13-15 July | Suva, Fiji

[3rd Annual International Forum on Water](#)

13-16 July | Athens, Greece

[Sustainable Ocean Initiative \(SOI\) Training of Trainers Workshop](#)

13-17 July | South Jeolla, Republic of Korea

[2nd Africa Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Conference 2015 \(EBAFOSC 2\)](#)

30-31 July | Nairobi, Kenya

Events in August

[Training on International Water Law in Africa](#)

3-5 August | Kampala, Uganda

[16th International Conference of the Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health](#)

10-13 August | Jawa Barat, Indonesia

[Sixth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific](#)

16-19 August | Male, Maldives

[2015 World Water Week](#)

23-28 August | Stockholm, Sweden

Events in September

[Blue Growth: Motivating Innovations in Aquatic Information Management](#)

7-11 September | Rome, Italy

[17th Annual BIOECON Conference: Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Sustainability](#)

13-15 September | Cambridge, United Kingdom

[18th International River Symposium](#)

21-24 September | Brisbane, Australia

[United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda](#)

25-27 September | New York, USA

[MORE EVENTS](#) | [EVENTS BY LOCATION](#) | [EVENTS BY CATEGORY](#)

Announcements

[Call for Applicants – Training on International Water Law in Africa](#)

Five partner institutions are organizing a joint training on International Water Law (IWL) in Africa. The experiences and lessons learnt will be used as a pilot to develop a 5-year-long (2016-2020) training programme on IWL, with the aim to improve transboundary water management in Africa (Application Deadline: 25 June 2015).

[Call for Applicants – 2016 IWC Masters Scholarships](#)

Master of Integrated Water Management (Australia) (Application deadline 1 August 2015 for International candidates and 1 October 2015 for Domestic candidates).

Vacancies

[Senior Advocacy Officer \(Wetlands International\)](#)

The position will work in a number of challenging development issues around the world in some of the world’s most inspiring and compelling wetlands and river basins. The candidate will work at the sharp end of advocacy as part of a strong and vibrant network organization and together with its many partners. They will appreciate the need for countries to develop coupled with a conviction that wetlands need to be an integral part of this. They will be convinced of the need to act through dialogue based approaches to achieve balanced solutions. Knowledge and familiarity of working in themes such as biodiversity, integrated water resources management, ecosystem based disaster risk reduction, water, sanitation and hygiene and green infrastructure will be essential. The candidate should be able to engage in government, business and inter-government environments articulate knowledge based arguments to influence decision-making processes (Application Deadline: 30 June 2015).

[Chief, Freshwater Unit \(UNEP\)](#)

UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) works with international and national partners, providing technical assistance and capacity development for the implementation of environmental policy, and strengthening the environmental management capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. This post is located in UNEP/DEPI at the Nairobi Duty Station and reports to the Coordinator, Climate Change Adaptation & Terrestrial Ecosystems Branch (Application deadline: 14 August 2015).

[Postdoctoral positions \(IIASA\)](#)

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg, Austria offers several post-doctoral positions for a duration of up to 2 years (Application Deadline: 1 November 2015).

[MORE VACANCIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

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