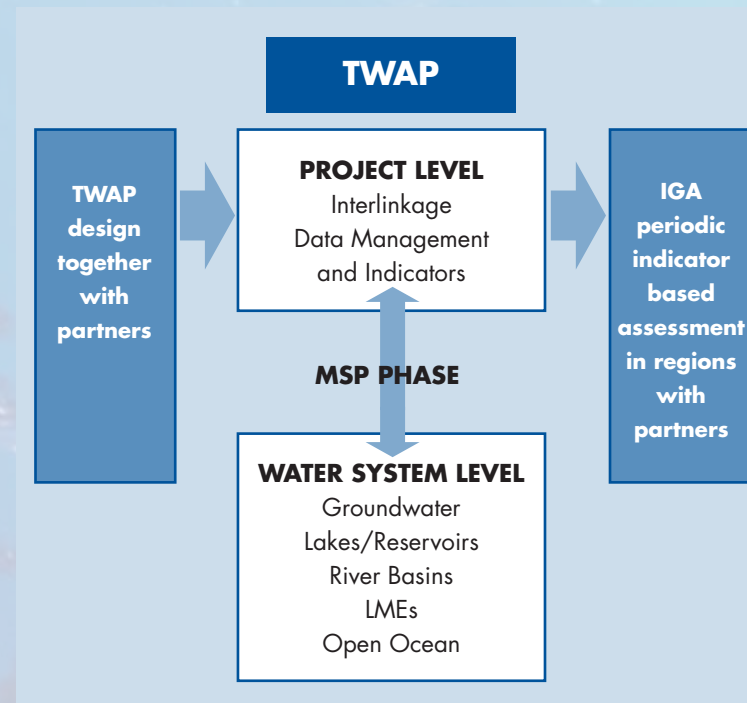


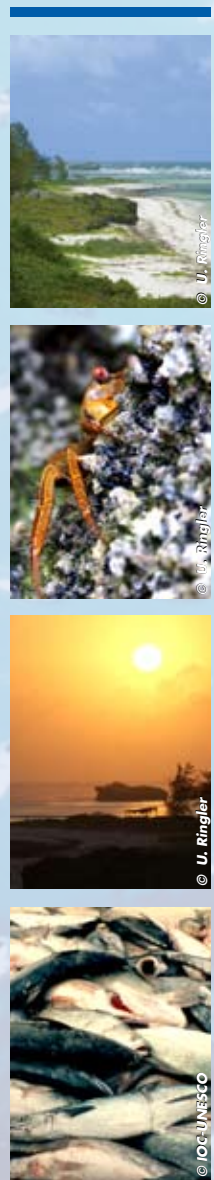
**Integrated Global Methodology:**

- Integrated assessment; continuous monitoring and regular reassessment, and the achievement of meaningful time-series; comparative regional to global assessment; using indicators of the human/aquatic ecosystem interface;
- A harmonized information system for the five different ecosystems and their key linkages (different scientific terminology, concepts, approaches, time scales, etc).



**The Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme will enable:**

- Tracking of relative results over time for GEF purposes in setting priorities for resource allocation; tracking the longer-term relative results of its interventions; providing a means for more effective use of resources for addressing higher priority water bodies;
- UNEP and other UN organizations to use results to contribute to global assessments such as GEO, WWDR, UNGA 60/30 Regular Process;
- Regional organizations to use this as a baseline and to track improvement of environmental and resources situations;
- National governments to use the results to set national programme priorities between transboundary and domestic issues.



**Partnership for Execution of Project:  
Donor: Government of Finland is the main donor**



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



<http://www.unep.org/dewa/assessments/ecosystems/water/>  
<http://twap.iwlearn.org/>

**Secretariat**

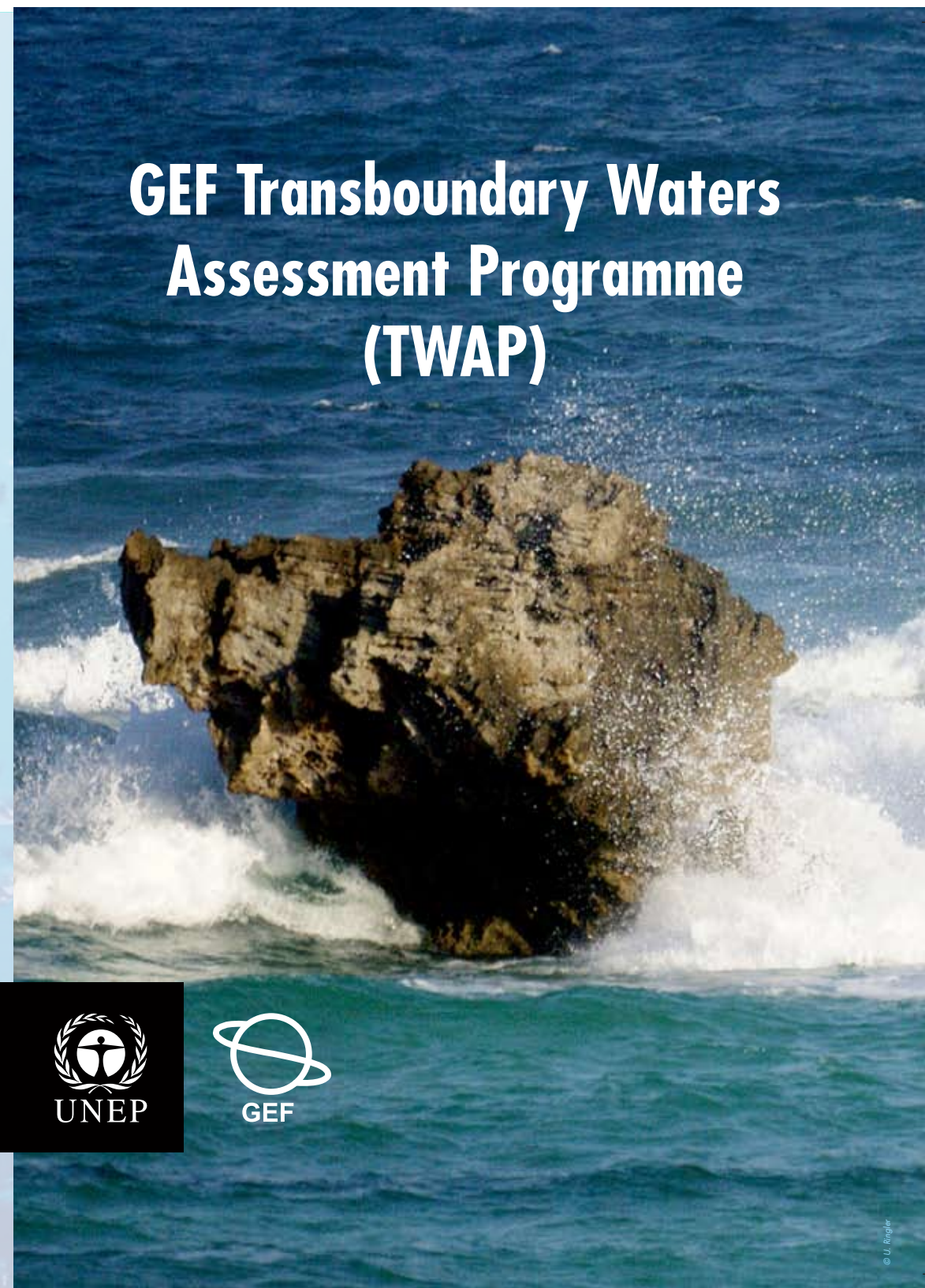
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# GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP)







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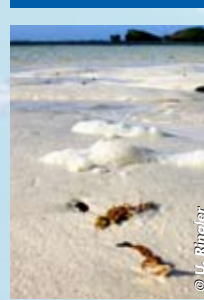
The wellbeing and socioeconomic development of a significant part of the world's population depends on transboundary water systems (groundwater, lakes/reservoirs, rivers, large marine ecosystems (LME) and open ocean areas) that continue to be degraded by anthropogenic and natural pressures. The lack of a systematic and scientifically robust methodology for assessing the changing conditions of these systems, resulting from human and natural causes, is a major constraint on the effective management of transboundary waters. Removing this constraint would allow policy makers, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and international organizations to set science-based priorities for the allocation of financial resources.

Currently there is no global programme focusing on transboundary water assessment, and no baselines for the health of these water systems or trends in changes in them have been established. There is therefore a need to develop and apply a methodology to establish the baselines and track the changes.

As a first step, the Medium Size Project (MSP) for two years aims to develop scientifically credible methodologies for conducting a global assessment of the five types of transboundary water systems for GEF purposes, and to catalyse a partnership and arrangements for carrying out such an assessment.

**The Medium Size Project would involve:**

- (i) Development of appropriate indicators;
- (ii) Identification of sources of information/data;
- (iii) Identification of assessment units;
- (iv) Development of a strategy and practical arrangements for carrying out the assessment, including the necessary institutional basis and framework, identification of partnerships for data collection and assembly, and identification of capacity building needs, so that organizations can contribute to and carry out the assessment.



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**Component one** will develop and validate methodologies for assessing major transboundary water systems that can be applied in multiple ecological and socio-political contexts.

**Component two** will catalyse the establishment of a cooperative partnership of assessment programmes of many organizations to develop an Integrated Global Assessment (IGA) of the world's transboundary water systems and a tracking framework for demonstrating progress/results globally for all types of such systems, including GEF International Waters (IW) results-based management. GEF will use this framework for setting priorities for its international waters projects in relation to progress elsewhere.

**Outcome:**

1. GEF adopts the assessment methodologies for its Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP) to help support results-based management in the International Waters Focal Area.
2. A partnership among agencies and organizations is established and institutional arrangements finalised to conduct the GEF TWAP.

**How will this be done:**

1. Five Working Groups (WGs) of experts will be established at the water systems level for the five transboundary water systems (groundwater, lakes/reservoirs basins, shared river basins, LMEs and open ocean areas). The WGs will be led by UNESCO-IHP, ILEC, UNEP-DHI Centre, NOAA, and UNESCO-IOC, respectively.
2. Each WG will develop an acceptable, feasible methodology for global-scale assessment of a particular transboundary water system, including identification of regions and boundaries, and end users in transboundary management institutions. Each WG will select a suite of indicators for use in water system assessments.
3. In addition, two WGs will be established at the Medium Size Project level:
  - (a) WG on inter-linkages between the five water system WGs and development of Integrated Global Assessment (IGA) and Demonstration Projects (DPs) proposals;
  - (b) WG on data management and indicators.



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**Why a Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme:**

The programme will respond to the need of GEF International Waters to prioritise, and to focus its scarce resources where they can be more cost-effective in addressing transboundary concerns. It will allow the monitoring of evolving trends and the impacts of GEF IW programmes and those of other agencies and actors. It will focus global attention on the vulnerability of transboundary water systems and catalyse much-needed action.



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**Development of methodologies: Medium Size Project -two years focusing on**

- Inventory of existing information databases;
- Design of TWAP architecture: scale, core partners, links with other assessments and databases as well as GEF projects;
- Design of TWAP management structure and execution arrangements;
- Definition/selection of the assessment units, and of inter-linkages;
- Definition of indicators (including uses, governance, knowledge management, science);
- Design of systematic coordination and information exchange mechanisms;
- Total costs, and co-financing.



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**Full-scale project:**

- Execution of the first 'baseline' assessment;
- Arrangements for sustainable mechanisms for future periodic assessments, based on identified indicators.



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TWAP will draw on all the current main water-relevant assessments and databases and GEF IW projects, and establish a systematic link with the other international water-learning projects such as IW Learn and "Enhancing the use of science in international waters projects to improve project results".