

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA: A CASE STUDY ON COMMITMENTS-RELATED BEST PRACTICE
OR LESSONS LEARNED IN
WATER**

1. Which specific WSSD or Agenda 21 commitment does your case study address?

Comprehensive Water Quality Management and Watershed Management

2. Please briefly describe the essential characteristics of the case study you wish to share including the nature of activities undertaken.

- Adoption of Total Pollution Load Management System
- Introduction of Water Use Charges and Watershed Management Funds (as based on the user-pays principle)

3. Please explain the nature and characteristics of particular challenges and constraints faced, if any.

One of the most difficult challenges faced was resolving the conflicting interests of the various stakeholders. It took more than five years to prepare the special laws that serve as the solution to our above-mentioned case study on the four major rivers in the Republic of Korea.

4. What are the lessons learned in the process, positive and/or negative?

From this case we learned that when the interests of two stakeholders are contradictory, it is desirable to select a policy that either creates a compromise between their interests or satisfies both of their interests.

For example, in order to satisfy both the upstream residents who wished to develop the riverside for land use and the downstream residents who wished to conserve the riverside for clean water, the cost for the conservation of the upstream riverside was levied on those living in the downstream areas. The cost of conservation is provided by Water Use Charges and Watershed Management Funds

5. What has been the impact of such a case in the area(s) concerned?

Some elements of the impact can be summarized as follows:

- Preservation of water quality
- Peaceful resolution of conflict
- Provision of necessary support for upstream residents
