

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
Ms. Nicole Glineur

Thank you Messrs Chairs,

Thank you to the UN for having invited the GEF to participate in the Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

The Global Environment Facility is pleased to report that more than 30 nations pledged \$4.3 billion to the 5th replenishment of the GEF-fund for the next 4 years. This is a record replenishment and is a testimony of the international community's commitment to the environmental agenda.

The GEF will channel these new resources toward measurable results in 6 areas: biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, persistent organic pollutants, mercury and the ozone layers.

It will direct funds to:

- Lower CO₂ emissions
- Expand sustainable management of protected areas including marine and critical land/sea scapes.
- Strengthen multi-state cooperation on transboundary H₂O system management
- Reduce POPs and mercury emissions in land and water
- Expand and protect the Earth's forest cover.

Capacity building related to oceans is a priority for the GEF. It is addressed both as intrinsic parts of programmes and projects as well as through the overall International Waters Learn programme, so-called IW-LEARN.

The GEF IW-LEARN is a programme that promotes capacity building and knowledge management in the overall international water portfolio with multiple environment benefits impacts and crucial transboundary aspects. It facilitates learning based on operational experience on the ground and towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and Adaptation to Climate Change. It involves all the GEF stakeholders including country officials, agencies, NGOs and other partners.

All the information, examples, courses and tools can be found on the IWLEARN.NET website. The GEF IW-LEARN programme is implemented by UNDP and UNEP. GEF IW-Learn sponsors global GEFIW conferences every 2 years allowing for sharing of experience and lessons learned of the GEF portfolio. It brings together numerous instrumental national and international partners including 180 countries, UNESCO, the World Bank Institute, the Coral Triangle Initiative, the Global Forum on Oceans, and the World Fish Center.

It provides capacity building training and on-demand technical assistance for GEF IW projects. For example, this includes: the Distance Learning Information Tool for the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem; a virtual coastal zone management course, and regional networks of marine protected areas managers such as in the Red Sea. It also provides regional and eco-system based learning exchanges and new portfolio learning tools.

IW-Learn fosters South to South and SIDS learning and collaboration in a participative cycle of learning exchanges, targeted training, and International Waters Resources Centers.

New collaborative platforms support the Coral Triangle Initiative and the Sustainable Mediterranean Programme with special emphasis on adaptation to climate change, public-private partnerships, improved water governance, sustainable fisheries land and water resource systems, and cross-sectorial coordination in order to achieve targets set by the MDGs and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

An independent evaluation allocated the highest ratings to the:

- Relevance
- Catalytic role
- Replicability, and
- Stakeholders involvement of IW-Learn.

We are looking forward to collaborating with all of you towards furthering ocean matters.

Thank you