

## GEF MSP Implementation Completion Report

- (1) Date: 12/7/2000
- (2) Title of GEF MSP: *Water and Nature*
- (3) GEF Allocation: \$US700,000
- (4) Grant Recipient: IUCN, Canada
- (5) World Bank Task Manager: Ariel Dinar, RDV

(6) Goals and Objectives of the MSP grant:

*The objective of the Grant is to support the development of a Sector Vision for Water and Nature - Environment and Ecosystems (the “Vision for Water and Nature”) which will be an integral component of the Vision of Water, Life and the Environment currently being developed by World Water Council. The goal of the Vision for Water and Nature is to create a commonly accepted perception of what must be done to conserve freshwater ecosystems for their own sake and for the sake of the valued goods and services that they provide to mankind. Specifically, the Vision for Water and Nature shall address the issues of biodiversity, transboundary waters and the inter-sectoral approach to the use and management of freshwater.*

(7) Project Impact

1. Whether and to what extent the objectives have been met

*The Vision for Water and Nature achieved all the objectives and expectations envisaged for it. However, the impact into the global process has not reached its potential because the **World Water Vision** prepared by the **World Water Council** did not incorporate the full set of recommendations from the **Water and Nature Vision**.*

2. Whether the performance indicators have been achieved

<b><i>Performance Indicators</i></b>	<b><i>Level of Achievement</i></b>
<i>Participation of technical specialists from recipient countries at up to 10 Regional Vision workshops and the three Water and Nature workshops.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Technical specialists from recipient countries participated in, approximately half of all World Water Vision mtgs.</i></li> <li>• <i>77 Participants, 52 of which are from recipient countries, participated in 3 Water for Nature workshops in Zimbabwe, Thailand, and Costa Rica.</i></li> </ul>
<i>Published discussion papers on all aspects of Social, Economic and Environmental Security related to Freshwater Ecosystem Management, including cross-sectoral and transboundary considerations, including examples in GEF recipient countries.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The 3 Papers [Freshwater Ecosystem Management and (1) Environmental, (2) Social, (3) Economic Security] were produced, reviewed, discussed in the three thematic workshops, disseminated electronically, and included in the final vision.</i></li> </ul>
<i>Creation and Operation of WWW site to solicit concerns of interested bodies and individuals in regard to the Vision for Water and Nature, including mechanisms for integration from local to national level, cross-sectoral mechanisms and transboundary issues.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Water and Nature Website came on-line 4/1, 1999: <a href="http://www.waterandnature.org">http://www.waterandnature.org</a>.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Website was updated approximately twice a month. It contains all project reports and had almost 140,000 hits from 75 countries.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Discussion Group was unfortunately not well used.</i></li> <li>• <i>280 total document downloads</i></li> <li>• <i>Final Vision: 185 downloads</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>English: 143</i></li> <li>○ <i>French: 28</i></li> <li>○ <i>Spanish: 14</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Three Discussion Papers: 53 downloads</i></li> </ul>
<i>Interim draft Vision for Water and Nature and Second Round Consultations on this, including the solicitation of concerns and views from recipient countries.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Draft Water and Nature Vision produced and disseminated broadly, including a website, and presentation at the Stockholm Symposium with other sector visions.</i></li> <li>• <i>A Panel Discussion was organized as a side event at Stockholm to further spread messages.</i></li> <li>• <i>A wide range of comments was received and incorporated into the final version of the Vision.</i></li> </ul>
<i>Final Vision for Water and Nature.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Final Vision produced after taking into account the two dozen sets of comments received on the Draft Vision. It was formally presented by Queen Noor of Jordan at Nature Day of the World Water Forum in The Hague.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Vision for Water and Nature was made available in three languages and disseminated broadly in print and electronic form.</i></li> </ul>
<i>Prominent positioning of the concerns of freshwater ecosystems in the final global Vision for Water, Life and the Environment and advice to the Global Water Partnership.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Water and Nature team provided detailed comments on drafts of other sector visions and the World Water Vision, and participated in the final drafting sessions of the Water for Food and Water for People.</i></li> </ul>

(8) Issues that arose during Implementation and lessons learned

*Because of a very tight time table (less than 10 months since the grant agreement was signed) for the implementation of the project, several difficulties arose, that resulted in:*

- *Difficulties to incorporate review comments at optimal timing*
- *Having several activities overlapping instead of sequenced, which affected the readiness of input from one activity to another.*
- *Extension with no cost of the closure date for the project. Actual closure day was 10/30/2000*

*There are several lessons learned brought to light by the respondents to the M&E analysis:*

- *As a consequence, there are inherent contradictions between the key messages of the Vision for Water and Nature and several of the intrinsic concepts in other sector and some regional visions. Therefore, when embarking upon a subject as controversial and of as much universal concern as water resource management, it is folly to attempt to do so by focussing on sectors and vested interests. Given the opportunity to go back to the beginning of the World Water Vision consultation process, the structure should have been designed as an integrated one from the start.*
- *Despite considerable effort to involve as many as possible of the spokespersons for demographic, geographic and local groups, representing diverse issues and viewpoints, many interests, especially local NGOs, nevertheless felt isolated from the process. In future projects of this kind, it is imperative to dedicate a greater share of the resources and time to this form of constituency building.*
- *It is important to recognize that a Vision of this kind must be shared not only by the people most affected, those at the local level, but also by the politicians and the decision-makers who have it within their power to facilitate or stymie efforts to realise the Vision. Given the opportunity to undertake this project again, the work plan and strategy would include specific initiatives intended to win over the political level. The Ministerial Declaration delivered at the Second World Water Forum was a severe disappointment to those who believe in the importance of placing the ecosystem at the base of the pyramid whose sides represent environmental, social and economic security in matters pertaining*

*to human and environmental requirements for water. In the end, the failure to sufficiently impress these realities upon the decision-makers of the world will delay and impede progress in achieving a world in which human and environmental needs for water are in proper balance.*

(9) Changes from original financing plan

*Minor adjustments that were approved prior to the change include*

- *Shifting funds between activities*
- *Inability of the recipient to recover payment to participant—which resulted in return of the funds to the Bank.*
- *The recipient didn't use all funds. A sum of nearly \$US1000 will be returned to the Bank within 2 months, pending bills from suppliers.*

(10) Attachments

1. *Statement of account: (In hard copy)*
2. *Audit report and the opinion of the external auditors: (Signed in hard copy, not signed in electronic copy)*
  - *Due date of statement of account and external audit: 11/1/00*
  - *Received by task manager: Yes*
  - *Period cover: February 1, 1999-September 30, 2000*
  - *Results: “In our opinion, this statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts and disbursement of the Vision for Water and Nature Project for the period from February 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000 in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Canada.”*
  - *Final bank statement: A final bank statement is included and a balance of \$US2,223 is indicated.*
  - *Unused funds: A check in the amount of \$US2,223 payable to IBRD (#0186, Nov. 29, 2000, Banque Royale de Canada) was sent as well.*