



International Waters: Learning Exchange and  
Resource Network (IW:LEARN)



Large Marine Ecosystem: Learning Exchange and  
Resource Network (LME:LEARN)

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## LEARNING EXCHANGE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### GENERAL INFORMATION

GEF IW: LEARN and LME:LEARN offers stakeholders in GEF-supported International Waters (IW) projects the opportunity to request support for learning exchanges across GEF projects and regions. The purpose of this program is to enhance adaptation and replication of practical experience in transboundary water resource management, with a focus on improving project results. Eligible participants include GEF International Waters projects and their partner institutions.

Key objectives of the Learning Exchange Program include:

- ◆ Exchange project experience and expertise at the operational level;
- ◆ Build mutual capacity for more effective and sustainable water resource management;
- ◆ Document and disseminate lessons learned from the exchanges.

Applicants must demonstrate **two critical elements** with proposals:

1. Exchanges must demonstrate some co-financing commitment; and more importantly,
2. Must deliver outputs that benefit not just exchange participants, but the wider GEF IW portfolio.

GEF IW:LEARN funds generally can only be spent on travel support, although some exceptions may be possible.

### EXCHANGE HISTORY

Over the course of the program's history, learning exchanges have taken different forms. Generally, the intent of the program is to support one to three week exchanges to enable participating institutions to send individual project managers, scientists, non-governmental organization leaders, or policy makers to visit a partner institution and gain practical experience through a study tour/twinning exercise. However, exchanges have taken other forms as well.

Some examples of past exchanges include:

- ◆ Most southern African GEF International Waters projects, hosted by UNDP for a workshop on mainstreaming climatic variability and change

- ◆ The Humboldt Current LME, hosted by the Benguela Current LME (a similar ecosystem) on a twinning exchange/study tour
- ◆ The Bulgaria Wetlands project, on a study tour hosted by the ICPDR to build capacity on wetlands restoration.
- ◆ The Iullemeden, Northwest Sahara and Guarani Aquifer projects hosted by the US Geological Survey, and co-funded by the IAEA to share experience on groundwater management.
- ◆ The South Pacific, Caspian Sea, Red Sea, Kura-Aras, Black Sea projects hosted by the Danube Project to develop a manual on strategic project communications.

## DETAILED CRITERIA FOR LEARNING EXCHANGES

- ◆ Person or institution proposing the exchange must be affiliated with a GEF-supported International Waters project
- ◆ Water management or water governance, (freshwater, coastal or marine), is a central focus of the proposed exchange
- ◆ Exchange partners may be affiliated with:
  - GEF International Waters or waters-related projects.
  - National, State, Provincial, Local Government Agencies.
  - Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
  - Multi-Lateral Basin Organizations.
  - Partnerships of agencies or organizations addressing IW issues
- ◆ At least one of the participating institutions should have demonstrated real progress to date
- ◆ Priority will be given to potential exchanges that promote learning in the following project management and ecological areas:

Project Management	Ecological
Public participation	Loss of Aquatic Ecosystems
Knowledge Management or Knowledge Sharing	Loss of Riparian Ecotones
Monitoring and Evaluation	Overexploitation of Water
Information Management, Data Management or Databases	Aquatic Biodiversity Impacts
Water Management Indicators	Habitat Destruction
Public/Private Partnerships for Financing and Project implementation	Overexploitation of Aquatic Resources
Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and/or Strategic Action Program (SAP) Development	
Sustaining and Replicating Successful Project Initiatives	

**All proposals must be approved by the GEF IW:LEARN Steering Committee**

For further information and to download a proposal form please visit our websites  
[www.iwlearn.net](http://www.iwlearn.net) and [www.marine.iwlearn.net](http://www.marine.iwlearn.net)