



International Hydrological Programme

20th session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 4 – 7 June 2012)

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AT UNESCO

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document summarizes developments at the Natural Sciences Sector and at the Division of Water Sciences and decisions on freshwater-related issues of the 185th to 189th sessions of the Executive Board and of the 36th session of the General Conference, including the Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5). It also summarizes the progress in the evaluation of IHP-VI, the status of extrabudgetary activities, the report of the IHP Finance Committee and the developments concerning the IHP Publication and Communication Committee.

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE NATURAL SCIENCES SECTOR AND THE DIVISION OF WATER SCIENCES FOLLOWING THE 36TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THE 185TH TO THE 189TH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, INCLUDING THE PROGRAMME & BUDGET FOR 2012-2013 (36 C/5): ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES (Agenda item 4.1)

1. This section summarizes institutional developments at the Sector and Division levels and succinctly covers IHP related issues addressed during the 185th (5-21 October 2010), 186th (3-19 May 2011), 187th (21 September - 6 October 2011), 188th (11 November 2011) and 189th (27 February - 10 March 2012) sessions of the Executive Board and of the 36th session of the General Conference (25 October - 10 November 2011).

Developments at the Natural Sciences Sector and the Division of Water Sciences

2. As part of the reform of the Natural Sciences Sector initiated in July 2011 (DG/NOTE/11/23), the number of Divisions was reduced to three: Division of Water Sciences, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, and Division of Science Policy and Capacity-Building. New cross-cutting thematic units were created at the Sector level for Engineering, Biodiversity, Natural Disasters and Science Education. This new structure is expected to provide enhanced opportunities for intra-sectoral collaboration.

3. Within the Division of Water Sciences, a new section was created on Groundwater Systems. The creation of this section will enhance the visibility of IHP's groundwater activities and create opportunities to further strengthen IHP work in this area.

4. In response to the critical financial situation of the Organization, the Director-General decided to keep in abeyance 75% of all vacant posts in Headquarters and in the Field. It is relieving that to date, IHP has suffered the least in that regard due to the appreciation of senior management and their support of the programme. At the date of preparation of this report, the post of Director of the Division of Water Sciences (which also serves as Secretary of IHP) and of the Regional Hydrologist for Latin America and the Caribbean are at the final stages of selection of candidates. Recruitment of the post of Regional Hydrologist for the Arab States is frozen until the end of 2012, while the post in New Delhi may be subject to longer delays in recruitment. A new Deputy Secretary of IHP has been appointed by the Director-General and has assumed functions on 29 April 2012. The existence of several critical vacant posts during a period of financial constraints poses the challenge of maintaining their integrity to ensure the efficient implementation of IHP.

Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5)

5. The Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5), as approved by the General Conference, includes IHP within Major Programme II (Natural Sciences), Main Line of Action (MLA) 5: "Freshwater systems under stress and societal responses, incorporating the work of the IHP and WWAP", with the following actions:

- Member States supported in building technical and institutional capacities, and policies and mechanisms improved for adaptation to global changes to river basins at the national, regional and global levels, on the basis of scientific knowledge;
- The world's freshwater resources assessed, notably through the United Nations World Water Development Report, and Member States supported in strengthening policies for water governance, including of shared waters;

- Effective water and sediment management strengthened through an improved knowledge base and scientifically sound policy guidance for urban areas, arid and semi-arid zones and groundwater resources and aquifer systems;
- Education capacities for water management reinforced at all levels, especially taking into account Africa and gender equality issues.

The part of IHP related to hydro hazards is included under MLA 7: “Natural disaster risk reduction and mitigation”, with the following action: “Scientific knowledge base and adaptation capacity of Member States in respect of water hazards at the regional and country levels improved”.

6. Under 36 C/5, the General Conference allocated 5,924,600 USD for IHP regular programme activities under MLA 5, with additional 255,000 USD under MLA 7. This allocation represents a decrease of approximately 600,000 USD when compared to 35 C/5. However, in the last days of the 36th session of the General Conference, the Director-General reported on the serious cash-flow shortfall experienced by the Organization. The regular budget available for IHP activities was drastically reduced in the current biennium to approximately 300,000 USD, after accounting for Sector level common expenses and other costs. At the time of preparation of this report, IHP has received additional appropriations of about 400,000 USD and about 230,000 USD in emergency funds, totaling near 930,000 USD for activities. This drastic reduction poses enormous challenges to the implementation of IHP and to the raising of additional extrabudgetary resources with seed money from the regular budget (see also IHP/IC-XX/6). For 2011, the total allotment of IHP extrabudgetary funds at Headquarters reached 10,713,500 USD excluding funds directly available to Field Offices.

7. Among other measures related to the financial situation, the Director-General launched an Emergency Fund and prepared a “roadmap to the future”, which was presented at the 189th session of the Executive Board (189 EX/15). The roadmap focuses on (1) strategic focus: programmatic choices and organizational design, including (1a) making choices: focusing on priority programme areas, (1b) focusing on key functions, (1c) field network reform, (1d) strengthening participation in the United Nations, (1e) better aligning structures on the programme, (1f) reaching out to partners and communicating effectively; (2) mobilizing the full potential of extrabudgetary resources; (3) enhancing efficiency and reducing administrative costs, including (1a) realigning staff resources to programmatic delivery, (1b) streamlining and simplifying governance, and (1c) modernizing IT tools. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Director-General for the effective actions taken; took note with concern of the impact of the current budget reduction on programmes and reform initiatives; expressed concern that the linear cuts made across all major programmes and cuts affecting other programmes risk compromising the Organization’s leadership in core priority programme areas; invited the Director-General to ensure that the objectives outlined in the roadmap are fully integrated into the major programmes, and to take all possible measures to maintain the same ratio between activity and staff costs as set out in document 36 C/5 Approved. The roadmap presents important challenges and opportunities for IHP. For instance, as part of the “making choices” (1a), the Sectors will undertake a review of flagship programmes, including those on freshwater, and their response to the global priorities Africa and gender equality. The intention is to recalibrate and to reinforce the identity of the Organization’s strategic role in the multilateral framework. As part of (1b), a strong focus is expected in the areas of policy advice, capacity development and monitoring or benchmarking, with special attention will be paid to the operationalization and monitoring of norms, standards and conventions. Non-focus areas shall be abandoned. Field reform (1c) includes an increase in decentralization of activity funds and closer attention to bottom-up programming.

Other issues of relevance to IHP

8. At its 36th session, the General Conference elected the following Member States to be members of the IHP Intergovernmental Council until the end of the 38th session of the General Conference: Australia, Azerbaijan, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Germany, Haiti, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay and Yemen.

9. At its 185th session, the Executive Board considered the report of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of UNESCO (185 EX/18), which noted the relevant impact of IHP, which was presented as a good example of how UNESCO significantly contributes to catalyze international cooperation. IEE presented five Strategic Directions: increasing UNESCO's focus; positioning UNESCO closer to the field; strengthening participation in the United Nations; strengthening governance; and developing a partnership strategy. The General Conference invited the Director-General to continue to implement the recommendations and the planned actions of IEE (see document 36 C/28 for further information). The implementation of these recommendations poses important opportunities, but also challenges, to IHP. As an example, the General Conference decided to extend the Medium-Term Strategy (document C/4) cycle from six to eight years in 2014, starting with document 37 C/4, which led to the preparation of an eight year plan for IHP-VIII, to ensure alignment between these strategic documents. IEE recommendations are largely consistent with the above mentioned "roadmap to the future".

10. The 185th session of the Executive Board considered the report of the External Auditor focusing on the administrative procedural aspects of the Division of Water Sciences (185 EX/32 Part II), covering the period from 2007 to March 2010. The External Auditor's representative presented nineteen recommendations covering a number of administrative issues. Most of these recommendations have already been implemented (see 36 C/INF.10 for an overview until December 2010).

11. The General Conference approved the establishment of four new water-related category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO (see IHP/IC-XX/Inf.5) and authorized the Executive Board, at its 190th session, to decide, on its behalf, on the designation of the proposed centre for Water for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change (Serbia) as a category 2 centre (see IHP/IC-XX/8). The 186th session of the Executive Board approved a revised version of the agreement for the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (186 EX/14 Part IX). The General Conference also decided that UNESCO will be associated with the celebration in 2012 of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ufa Mendbayevich Ahmedsafin (1912-1984), a leader in the establishment of methods to map groundwater resources.

12. In line with the guidance given by the 46th session of the IHP Bureau and the 19th session of the IHP Council regarding implementation of Resolution XVIII-4 mandating the external evaluation of IHP-VI (2002-2007) and the reporting on the evaluation, the Secretariat convened an external evaluation team on 24-26 January 2011. The team was initially comprised of three core members selected in consultation with the IHP Bureau and one associate member nominated during the 19th session of the IHP Council by Region 1 and sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands. The evaluation team was subsequently joined on 16 May 2011 by a second associate member nominated and sponsored by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

13. The evaluation team carried out several evaluation missions covering Regions I, III, IV, Va and Vb. To facilitate the evaluation with the limited available resources, these

missions were designed by the evaluation team and regional officers to leverage on missions that were undertaken by members of the evaluation team in their performance of their normal duties. The team presented an inception report (15 February 2011), a preliminary progress report (31 March 2011), which was presented to the 46th session of the IHP Bureau, a draft final report (11 August 2011), and the final evaluation report (29 January 2011, see reference document IHP-VI/External Evaluation/2012) after receiving comments from the Secretariat on 24 October 2011. The Secretariat transmitted the first draft final evaluation report on 6 September 2011 to the coordinator of the IHP-VIII Task Force, who was engaged at the time in preparing the first draft of the strategic plan of IHP-VIII. In addition, the IHP-VIII Task Force had access to information on the evaluation of IHP-VI through a joint member of the two teams. The Secretariat has recently submitted the final report to UNESCO's Internal Oversight Services (IOS). As of the writing of this report, a meeting has been scheduled with IOS and will be reported on orally to the Council.

IHP-RELATED EXTRABUDGETARY ACTIVITIES (Agenda item 4.3)

14. Extrabudgetary funding enhanced the capacity to implement IHP and improved the ability to support Member States in the execution of field activities. This summary provides an overview of the status of extrabudgetary projects since the 19th session of the IHP Council. During this period several donors provided significant financial contributions to support IHP. Ongoing and forthcoming extrabudgetary projects include:

- United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). Current Phase (2009-2012) Funding Agency: Government of Italy. Executing Agency: UNESCO. Period of Execution: Cyclical on a triennial basis (2009-2012, 2012-2015 etc). Amount: EUR 2.5M per year (under negotiation)
- PCCP Associated Programme (From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential). Funding Agency: Government of Italy. Executing Agency: UNESCO. Period of Execution: 2010-2011 Amount: USD 235,101
- Water Programme for Environmental Sustainability (WPA II) - Towards adaptation measures to human and climate change impacts. Funding Agency: The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS). Executing Agency: IHP. Period of Execution: January 2007 - December 2012. Project Amount: USD 3,400,000
- Contribution to the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystems - Management of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater. Funding Agency: The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS). Executing Agency: IHP. Period of Execution: January 2009-December 2013. Project Amount: USD 778,000
- Protection and Sustainable Use of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System (DIKTAS). Funding Agency: Global Environment Facility (GEF). Implementing Agency: UNDP. Executing Agency: IHP. Period of Execution: July 2010-June 2014. Project amount: USD 2,160,000
- Development of the Methodology and Arrangements for the GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP) - Transboundary Aquifers Component of the TWAP. Funding Agency: Global Environment Facility (GEF). Implementing Agency: UNEP (Executing Agency: UNEP-DEWA). Executing Partner: UNESCO/IHP. Period of Execution: 2009-2011. UNESCO-IHP Component USD 150,000
- GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP). Transboundary Aquifers Component. Funding Agency: Global Environment Facility (GEF). Implementing Agency: UNEP Executing Agency: UNEP-DEWA. Executing Partner: IHP. Period of Execution: 2011-2013. IHP Component USD 1,500,000
- GEF IW:LEARN – Strengthening IW Portfolio Delivery and Impact. Components on groundwater. Global Environment Facility (GEF). Implementing Agency: UNDP.

Executing Agency: UNOPS. Executing Partner: IHP. Period of Execution: 2011-2014. IHP Component USD 525,000

- Integrated Natural Resource Management in the Baikal Basin Transboundary Ecosystem – Components on groundwater and water quality/urban water. Global Environment Facility (GEF). Implementing Agency: UNDP. Executing Agency: UNOPS. Executing Partner: IHP. Period of Execution: 2011-2015. UNESCO-IHP Component USD 418,000
- Enhancing the Use of Science in International Waters Projects to Improve Project Result. Funding Agency: Global Environment Facility (GEF). Implementing Agency: UNEP. Executing Agency: UNU-INWEH. Executing Partner: IHP. Period of Execution: 2009-2011. Amount of the UNESCO IHP Component: USD 70,000
- Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem – Regional Component – Sub-component on Management of Coastal Aquifers and Groundwater. Funding Agency: Global Environment Facility (GEF). Implementing Agency: UNEP. Executing Agency: UNEP/MAP. Executing Partner: IHP. Period of Execution: Mid 2010-2014. Amount of the UNESCO IHP Component: USD 1,770,000
- Climate Change Risk Management in Egypt/Spanish MDG Achievements Funds. Funding Agency: Spanish MDG-Achievements Funds through UNDP. Executing Agency: UNESCO Cairo Office. Period of Execution: 2008-2012. Amount: USD 499,500
- Support to Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data of the Nile Project (FRIEND/NILE). Funding Agency: Flemish Funds in Trust. Executing Agency: UNESCO Cairo Office. Period of Execution: 2006-2012 (For Phase II only). Amount: USD 562,095
- UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Groundwater Management in Mongolia. Funding Agency: Japanese Funds in Trust for the Promotion of International Cooperation and Mutual Understanding. Executing Agency: UNESCO Beijing Office. Period of Execution: Phase II - 2010-2011. Amount Phase II: USD 33,900
- UNESCO's Component of UN Climate Change Partnership Programme (UNESCO-CCPF). Funding Agency: Government of Spain. Executing Agency: UNESCO Beijing Office. Period of Execution: 2008-2011. Amount: USD 1,000,000
- Adapting to Climate Change: Evaluating impacts of sea level rise to coastal zones and islands in Southeast Viet Nam (Ninh Thuan Province). Funding Agency: Government of Viet Nam, Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (in addition to IHP's Regular Budget). Executing Agency: UNESCO Jakarta Office. Period of Execution: Phase II - 2010-2011. Amount: USD 176,000
- WINGA-ASPAC (International Hydrological Programme - Water Interoperability Networks for Global Change Adaptation). Funding Agency: Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports (MEXT) via Japanese funds-in-Trust (JFIT). Executing Agency: UNESCO Jakarta Office. Period of Execution: 2011-2013. Amount: USD 280,171
- Outreach Activities - UN Coherence Fund Project 'Environmental Sustainability and Vulnerability at local level. Funding Agency: UN Coherence Fund. Executing Agency: UNESCO Montevideo Office. Period of Execution: September 2009 – December 2010 (ongoing). Amount: USD 60,000
- Coordination of the Regional Process towards the World Water Forum (Water Forum of the Americas). Executing Agency: UNESCO Montevideo Office. Period: September 2011 – May 2012. Amount: EUR 50,000
- The impact of glacier retreat in the Andes: International Multidisciplinary Network for Adaptation Strategies. Funding Agency: Flanders-UNESCO Science Trust Fund (FUST). Executing Agency: IHP. Period: 2011-2012. Amount: USD \$ 45,500. Period: 2012-2014. Amount of USD 440,000

- Managing Water Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions of Latin America and Caribbean (MWAR –LAC). Funding Agency: Flanders-UNESCO Science Trust Fund (FUST). Executing Agency: IHP. Period: 2012-2014. Amount: USD 765,408
- Framework Programme of Education and Training for Water (FETWater). Funding Agency: Flemish Authorities. Executing Agency: UNESCO-IHP under the lead of UNESCO Windhoek office. Period of Execution: Phase II: 2006-2010. Amount: Phase II: USD 1,041,700
- Strengthening capacity to combat Drought and Famine in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia): Tapping groundwater resources for emergency water supply. Funding Agency: Japan. Executing Agency: UNESCO Nairobi. Period of Execution: May - December 2012. Amount: Phase II: USD 1,550,000
- Rwanda IHP Support within the One UN. Funding Agency: One UN Common Fund. Executing Agency: UNESCO Nairobi. Period of Execution: January - December 2012. Amount: Phase II: USD 70,000
- Harvesting Rain Water in Uganda. Funding Agency: World Islamic Call Society (WICS). Executing Agency: UNESCO Nairobi. Period of Execution: June 2009 - April 2011; extension to December 2012 requested. Amount: Phase II: USD 100,000
- Capacity building on Harvesting Rain Water in Kenya. Funding Agency: Joint UN gender and women empowerment fund. Executing Agency: UNESCO Nairobi. Period of Execution: January – December 2012. Amount: Phase II: USD 30,000
- Capacity building and groundwater resources exploration for emergency situation to combat drought in the Horn of Africa, Funding Agency: Flanders-UNESCO Science Trust Fund (FUST). Executing Agency: UNESCO/ADI. Period of Execution: 2012-2013, Amount: 396,000 USD
- Activities in the Sava River Basin for Stakeholders Analysis. Financing Agency: Italian Government. Executing Agency: UNESCO Venice Office. Period of Execution: 2011-2012. Amount: US\$ 35,000 / Activities in the Sava River Basin for Sediment Management. Financing Agency: Government of Italy (EUR 15,400), from the German IHP Secretariat (EUR 22,250), from SEDNET (EUR 4,500) and from DELTARES (EUR 20,000). Period of Execution: 2012-2013
- Development of Comprehensive National Water Strategy and Action Plan to Sustainable Water Management in Pakistan. Implemented by UNESCO in collaboration with the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FODP) Water Sector Task Force (WSTF) coordinated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Period of Execution (7/2011- 6/2012), Amount: USD 18,900
- Strategic Strengthening of Flood Warning and Management Capacity of Pakistan, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Implemented by HQ and UNESCO-Islamabad office, Partners: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Government of Pakistan (National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) ,Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Federal Flood Commission (FFC), Office of the Indus Water Commissioner and academic local partners., Period of execution: 2011-2013, Amount USD 3,490,937.

REPORT OF THE IHP FINANCE COMMITTEE (Agenda item 4.4)

15. The IHP Finance Committee has noted with concern the serious cash-flow shortfall being experienced by UNESCO since the 36th session of the General Conference. This reduction in budget has significantly affected the IHP activities planned for 2012-2013. A detailed document (IHP/IC-XX/6) and draft appeal to the governing organs of UNESCO has been prepared to ensure appropriate funding and staffing to maintain UNESCO's leading role in freshwater.

REPORT OF THE IHP PUBLICATION AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE (Agenda item 4.5)

16. The 19th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council endorsed the establishment of the IHP Publication and Communication Committee, on a temporary basis until the next session of the Council. The Committee shall cease to exist at the start of the 20th session of the IHP Council. The Committee is a subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Council, established to act on behalf of the IHP in assessing the strategies, procedures and needs of the Programme related to publications. It undertakes initiatives to raise the international impact of IHP publications and to oversee the publication and communication procedures of the Programme. The Committee acts to ensure that the publications of IHP are in strict compliance with the overall publication strategy of UNESCO. It does not include communication of IHP with Member States, other UNESCO programmes, and other organizations within the UN system or private and civil society partners; the Committee does not perform tasks that are the prerogative of the Secretariat, such as publishing or reviewing specific publications. The following members were elected to the Committee: Mr Michael van der Valk (Netherlands, Group I); Ms Snejana Dakova (Bulgaria, Group II); Mr Guido Soto (Chile, Group III); Mr Alireza Daemi (Islamic Republic of Iran, Group IV); Ms Anta Seck (Senegal, Group Va); and Mr Abdalla Ahmed (Sudan, Group Vb). The Committee was elected on the last day of the 19th session of the Council and for that reason it did not meet during the session. The nomination and election of Mr van der Valk (Netherlands, Group I) to chair the Committee took place in December 2010 through email communications between the Committee members.

Recent publication and communication developments within the Secretariat

17. The UNESCO Waterportal homepage and IHP website were moved to a new platform and user interfaces were updated and modified in conformity with guidelines by the Division of Public Information. The English and French versions of the Waterportal were launched on 10 November 2010, in parallel with the launch of the Natural Sciences Sector website on the occasion of World Science Day. The Spanish version was completed and launched in March 2011, thereby making the Waterportal integrally available in 3 languages for the high-visibility promotion and celebration of World Water Day 2011 (22 March). Pursuant to the common 'one-look-one-feel' interface, which mandates a unified set of functionality across all the sub-sites of the Organization, the web navigation and architecture of the Waterportal took the rollout into account, strictly adhering to the templates made available for static contents ('cold contents') as well as for 'hot contents' (e.g., news, events, media advisories). The latter is now dynamically integrated into the site through a plug-in that makes these contents available to all web administrators working on the collaborative platform.

18. In March 2011 UNESCO created a Publications Board to oversee UNESCO's publishing activities, including the review and final recommendations to on proposed publications, ensuring relevance to programme priorities, as well as optimizing visibility and multilingualism; and to monitor and evaluate the impact of all publications. The centralized Publishing Board significantly delays the planning and delivery of IHP publications and may also encounter difficulties in assessing technical manuscripts. In addition, an increasing number of publications, on which UNESCO logos appear, are produced solely by or in partnership with external publishers. The complex publication issues were highlighted in document 36 C/3, noting the "increasingly complex in-house publication procedures, leading to publication delays and increased costs" as a challenge. Such delays could be avoided if IHP Publication Strategy (document IHP/Bur-XLIII/Ref.1) is implemented and allows IHP the required level of autonomy as an intergovernmental programme.