Internationally shared Groundwater Bodies and Aquifers

UNECE 2nd assessment

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Geneva, May 2011
International Groundwater Resource Assessment Centre

facilitate and promote global sharing of information and knowledge required for sustainable groundwater resources development and management.
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transboundary aquifer assessment
groundwater monitoring, global assessments, Managed Aquifer Recharge
TBA Activities at IGRAC

Map of Transboundary Aquifers of the World

UN ILC assistance: International Legal Agreement on groundwater

TBA Methodology and a Course

GEF projects (Global Environment Facility)

ISARM Regional Activities
(cooperation with OAS, SADC, INWEB, UNECE, OOS, GWP MED, GEF, UNEP, UNDP..).

ISARM Portal
Regional ISARM activities

Tripoli Conference 2008

On May 25th-27th, the 3rd International Conference on Shared Aquifer Resources in Africa was held in Tripoli, Libya. The conference was organized by UNESCO-IHP, the General Water Authority (GWA) of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS). The conference was hosted by the GWA.

Objectives and scope
The conference provided valuable input to the 3rd phase of the UNESCO-IHP program and contributed to the current debate on transboundary aquifer management. The outcomes of the conference provided beneficial information for some of the related activities to be organized by international organizations in the next few years.

Obviously, the conference provided the opportunity for collective learning (150 participants from more than 20 countries and national, regional and international organizations) and to build partnerships. Furthermore, the Regional Centre on Shared Aquifer Resources Management in Africa was introduced to the wider audience during the conference.
TBAs of the World
Reverse side of the map

- assessment methodology
- procedure
- metadata
- references
- examples
TBA Assessment Methodology

Data harmonisation and information management
Classification, diagnostic analysis and zoning

Hydrogeological Aspect
Delineation and description
Environmental issues
Socio-economic framework
Institutional settings
International legal framework
To overview and compare...by browsing & searching
Transboundary Aquifers of Central Asia C
- Update September 2010 -

Legend
Transboundary Aquifers
- aquifer extent
- confirmed boundary
- approximate boundary
- river basin boundary

Geographical elements
- political border
- lakes
- rivers
- cities

Base maps
- Geologic basins: EUSP, SPS and DSS (2009)
- Boundaries: IGRAC (2010)

Map production
- Projected: Geographic coordinates, simplified
- Overlay of controlled and administrative

Cartographic editing/Stack
- C.M. van der Graaf

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IGRAC works under auspices of UNECE and UNEP, with support by UNEP/UNV and funded by the government of the Netherlands through Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.
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The inventory

- Xls file – 6 pages – 540 TBAs & GWBs
- Code, name, riverbasin, countries
What do we need to finalize?

• Your approval:
  – Please confirm what is correct (both on maps and in the inventory list)

• Your corrections:
  – Please indicate what corrections should still be included

• Please note that some corrections which came in very late and/or still gave problems with projections were not yet included in these results.
  – We will contact respective countries
In particular

- France, Belgium, Ireland & others who provided GWBs:
  - In many cases only GWB codes are included in the inventory and associated with each GWB. If names should be associated with the GWBs, please provide them.
In particular

• Germany – Netherlands:
  – Should all the GWBs of Ems be included, or just those that touch the boundary (which is more consistent with how France treats its GWBs)
In particular

- An incredible amount of groundwater bodies were defined in Belgium, Zeeland (NL) and France. Not all labels are placed here!

- GWB were sometimes provided 3 times, because of the layered approach used. These were removed.
In particular

- Please review the new Shapes in South Eastern Europe – we will provide the details
In particular

- This remains a highly complex region with several aquifers overlapping – 2 new GWBs make it impossible to correlate GWBs across the border.
In particular

- Regions with uncertain extent
In particular

- Remnants of UNECE 1999 – if still no extent is available, should these points be included?
We look forward to receive your comments before May 20 by way of

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Thank you
Thanks