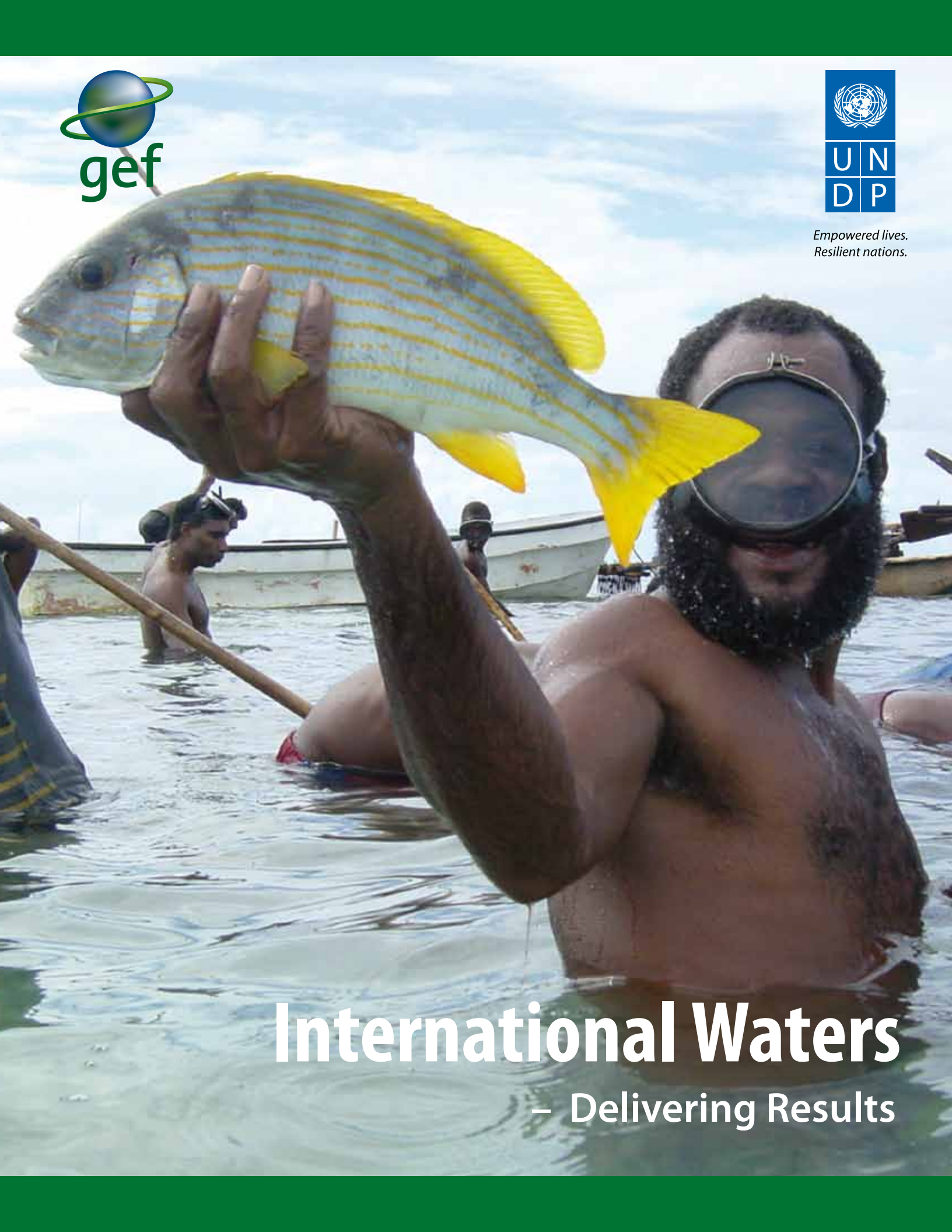




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International Waters

– Delivering Results



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Cover photo: ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies/Marine Photobank © A fishing closure in a sustainably managed coral reef system in Papua New Guinea ends with a harvest for a traditional feast.

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FOREWORD



YANNICK GLEMAREC

The earth's water and ocean ecosystems provide mankind with a wide range of both market and non-market ecosystem services, including food, drinking water, recreation, transport, energy resources, minerals, climate regulation, etc. Billions of people depend on healthy marine and freshwater systems for their livelihoods and security. These vital ecosystems face a range of threats to their integrity, including pollution, overfishing, unsustainable water use, invasive species, habitat loss, and impacts from climate change such as ocean acidification. Despite numerous international commitments, the majority of these threats continue to increase at a geometric rate, underscoring the urgency for taking immediate action to reduce stress on these ecosystems and permit their recovery.

The majority of the earth's major freshwater and ocean ecosystems straddle the boundaries of two or more nations, underscoring the need for cooperative approaches among the countries sharing such resources. For over twenty years, UNDP-GEF's International Waters programme has been supporting groups of countries in their joint efforts to sustain the critical market and non-market ecosystem services provided by many of the world's most significant transboundary lakes, rivers, aquifers and Large Marine Ecosystems (LME). To date, UNDP-GEF has supported over 100 countries in efforts to sustainably manage 13 LMEs, 10 river basins, 6 lakes and 2 aquifers.

UNDP-GEF has developed and applied a series of strategic planning methodologies that have proven highly effective not only at facilitating regional and national governance reform to improve management of these transboundary systems, but, in many cases, at catalysing sizeable quantities of public and private finance to address priority transboundary issues. These instruments include the GEF's Transboundary

Diagnostic Analysis/Strategic Action Programme process, Integrated Coastal and Water Resources Management, and building on regional and global legal frameworks. Each approach follows a similar overall process of prioritising water or ocean issues, identifying barriers to sustainable use, determining appropriate mixes of policy instruments to remove barriers, and implementing agreed reforms and investments.

This publication highlights UNDP-GEF International Waters portfolio results achieved across four UNDP-GEF 'signature' programmes: Large Marine Ecosystems; Transboundary Lakes, Rivers and Aquifers; Integrated Water Resources and Coastal Area Management; and Global Programmes. A series of project case studies review delivery of results in the context of the GEF International Waters focal area's Results Indicators framework – Process, Stress Reduction and Environmental and Socioeconomic Status Results. The publication also includes an overview of cumulative results delivery across the entire UNDP-GEF International Waters portfolio since 1991.

International Waters – Delivering Results 2012 clearly demonstrates how a series of proven strategic planning instruments can be used to deliver both the governance reforms and investments needed to reverse the degradation of the world's principal transboundary water systems. These methodologies are not only effective but are highly replicable and scalable, underscoring the importance of continued GEF and partner investment in sustaining the world's critical water and ocean systems if we are to move towards a truly sustainable pathway.



Yannick Glemarec

UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator

INTRODUCTION



Transboundary freshwater and ocean ecosystems are the norm, not the exception. Globally, there are 263 watersheds that cross the political boundaries of two or more countries; these watersheds represent about one half of the earth's land surface and 40% of global population. Around 55% the world's 64 Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) are shared by two or more countries. As a result, multi-country cooperation on the management of shared water and ocean ecosystems is essential if sustainable, integrated and ecosystem-based management of these vital ecosystems is to be achieved. The benefits that can be realised through multi-state cooperation on water and oceans go 'beyond the shared waters' and include increased regional cooperation, economic integration and investment, and enhanced trust, peace and security.

Since 1991, UNDP-GEF's International Waters Programme has been supporting over one hundred countries that share some of the world's largest and most important aquatic ecosystems to work cooperatively in addressing the agreed priority environmental and water resource concerns facing such waterbodies. UNDP-GEF's International Waters portfolio is divided across four 'signature' programme areas:

- Large Marine Ecosystems
- Lakes, Rivers and Aquifers
- Integrated Water Resources and Coastal Area Management
- Global Programmes

The first two programme areas have consistently applied the

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