

A photograph of a young girl with dark hair, wearing a green shirt and yellow pants, sitting in a small metal boat on a body of water. She is holding a wooden pole and making a peace sign with her right hand. The water is calm with some ripples, and the background shows a distant shoreline with some structures.

VOLUME 3 **METHODOLOGY** **FOR THE** **ASSESSMENT OF** **TRANSBOUNDARY** **LAKE BASINS**

**METHODOLOGY FOR THE
GEF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS
ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME**

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NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

This report uses the term "lake" as shorthand notation to refer to lentic waters of all kinds. These include natural lakes, wetlands, as well as artificial water bodies such as reservoirs.

PREFACE

The GEF Medium Size Project (MSP) *Development of the Methodology and Arrangements for the GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme*, approved in January 2009, was envisioned as a partnership among existing programmes, which was considered to be more cost effective than the conduct of an independent data and information gathering exercise. The Project Objective was to develop the methodologies for conducting a global assessment of transboundary waters for GEF purposes and to catalyse a partnership and arrangements for conducting such a global assessment.

This Project has been implemented by UNEP as Implementing Agency, UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) as Executing Agency, and the following lead agencies for each of the water systems: the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for transboundary aquifers including aquifers in small island developing states (SIDS); the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) for lake basins; UNEP-DHI Centre for Water and Environment (UNEP-DHI) for river basins; and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO for LMEs and the open ocean.

This Project resulted in developed methodologies for the following five transboundary water systems: (i) groundwater aquifers; (ii) lake/reservoir basins; (iii) river basins; (iv) large marine ecosystems; and (v) open oceans.

The results of this Project are presented in the TWAP MSP Publication, *Methodology for the GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme*, which consists of the following six volumes:

- *Volume 1 – Methodology for the Assessment of Transboundary Aquifers, Lake Basins, River Basins, Large Marine Ecosystems, and the Open Ocean;*
- *Volume 2 – Methodology for the Assessment of Transboundary Aquifers;*
- *Volume 3 – Methodology for the Assessment of Transboundary Lake Basins;*
- *Volume 4 – Methodology for the Assessment of Transboundary River Basins;*
- *Volume 5 – Methodology for the Assessment of Large Marine Ecosystems; and*
- *Volume 6 – Methodology for the Assessment of the Open Ocean.*

Volume 1 is a summary of the detailed methodologies described in volumes 2 – 6. At the back cover of volume 1, a DVD is attached that contains electronic version of all six volumes.

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