



eFlowNews - Volume 5 Issue 3

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Environmental Flows and Human Well-Being



Read the summary of our e-discussion in preparation for the seminar of next 19 August during Stockholm World Water Week

The "**Environmental Flows and Health Seminar**" is taking place during Stockholm World Water Week on August 19 2008 (www.worldwaterweek.org). The seminar will feature speakers from some of the leading international organizations working to understand the linkages between healthy aquatic ecosystems and healthy human communities. It will provide a platform for speakers and participants to discuss the prospects for improving human health by safeguarding and restoring aquatic ecosystems.

In preparation for the seminar, eFlowNet invited its members to participate in an online group discussion. The discussion aimed at highlighting the research, experience, and broader knowledge of members of eFlowNet to help improve our understanding of linkages between healthy aquatic ecosystems maintained by environmental flows and healthy people.

The main discussion was on whether human health depends on goods and services provided by aquatic ecosystems that are sustained by environmental flows. Some specific examples of lost human health-supporting goods and services were put forward to advocate the positive correlation with freshwater ecosystems. In particular, a study found that the amount of baseflow in a village of Flores (Indonesia) is negatively associated with diarrhea incidence. Some other participants spoke in favour of a relationship between human health and modified ecosystems following dam construction or aquaculture development. However, they argued that such linkages can be either positive or negative depending on the specific context. This will affect the overall health outcome of the operations. The reasons they gave were grounded to a number of case studies, e.g. on floodplain development in the Sahelian region. It is noteworthy how some attempts were made more recently to analyse the association between various-size dams, irrigation schemes and four vectorborne diseases ([read more](#)).

However, human health cannot be deemed exclusively dependent on ecosystems goods and services. There is a lack of evidence to support the association between the effects of changes in environmental flows and human health outcomes, e.g. declining fisheries and malnutrition. This is mainly due to inconsistency between health and ecosystems datasets. Very few case studies or programmes can be found addressing how flows directly impact human health. An approach focusing on ecosystem services as a whole is proposed as more appropriate for further debate

We would like to thank the members who participated in this discussion, and welcome further discussion around this topic and other issues on the [eFlowNet Discussion Forum](#).

[Click here](#) to find the exact time, agenda, and key speakers for the seminar in Stockholm. Meanwhile, more insights can be gained into health impact assessments from the following new publications.

<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391333>
<http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn9781843391685>

World Conservation Congress



The online registration system for the World Conservation Congress is now open. The Congress is the world's largest and most important conservation event. Be a part of it and register now!

The World Conservation Congress is taking place from 5 to 14 October this year in Barcelona, Spain. To see what's going on, have a look at the [programme for the Forum](#) and the [Members Assembly](#). The World Conservation Congress is organised by the IUCN – the world's leading conservation body representing governments and environmental organizations from around the globe. It takes place every four years and is a prime event on the international environment and development calendar. The Congress brings together over 8,000 people, including Heads of State and Ministers, leaders from business and non-

governmental organizations and over 500 journalists of written and image media. The focus of the Congress will be on bringing together citizens, the public and private sectors around a shared vision of sustainability.

To find out more information about the Congress and how to register visit the website at:

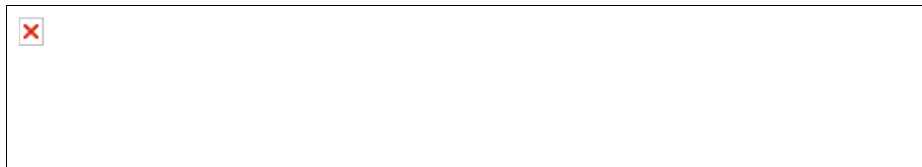
http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/index.cfm

http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/attend/congress_register/index.cfm

Water is one of the keys to a sustainable future and will be a prominent theme at the World Conservation Congress. IUCN is planning a Programme and a **Pavilion** dedicated to water as integral parts of the Congress. Both the Programme and the Pavilion offer opportunities for partnership with leaders from business, civil society, government, science and technology. There will be also a Water Journey to provide participants guidance on water sessions at the Congress.

Hosts

The Ministry for Environment of the Spanish government, the Department of Environment and Housing of the Catalanian Government, the City Council of Barcelona and the Provincial Government of Barcelona are kindly hosting the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2008. IUCN thanks them all for their generous support in the preparation of the Congress.



Learning Opportunities at the World Conservation Congress



Build your skills: apply now to participate in 1 of 50 Learning Opportunities during IUCN World Conservation Congress

Be a part of it - Register now

Have you already registered for the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the world's leading summit on the environment from 5 to 14 October this year in Barcelona, Spain? To see what's going on, have a look at the **programme for the**

Members Assembly. Register now and

- Apply for one of the **50 Learning Opportunities which will take place between 5 and 9 October**. The final deadline is **10 August**.
- Benefit from **40% discounts on the night trains in Europe** (from France, Switzerland, and Italy) with **Elipsos** and **30% for trains in Spain** with **Renfe**. Just download the vouchers from your registration status page. Or take advantage of the **20% reductions offered by the Star Alliance™ Members**.
- **Reserve your accommodation** before all hotels are full!

Get involved!

Click on the following links if you are interested in getting involved

You want to rent an exhibition booth?

http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/involved/exhibit/member_stands/index.cfm

You want to organize a press conference?

http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/involved/forum/index.cfm#3

You want to become a sponsor or partner of the Congress?

http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/involved/partner/index.cfm

You want to book accommodation?

http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/attend/accommodation/index.cfm

You want to book an excursion or a tour?

http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/attend/excursion/index.cfm

You want to participate of the Sailing to Barcelona Initiative?

http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/about/special_events/sailing/index.cfm

Interdisciplinary Solutions to Instream Flow Problems



...You won't want to miss the keynote speakers at FLOW 2008... and Panel discussions... Case studies... Networking...

The Instream Flow Council announces an interactive conference on Interdisciplinary Solutions to Instream Flow Problems

Taking place on October 7-9, 2008, in San Antonio, Texas, this conference will enable you to

- Build collaborative decision-making skills in a session with Professor Larry Susskind of Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation.
- Learn about creative, interdisciplinary tools and approaches to instream flow problem-solving.
- Explore the latest developments in instream flow science, policy and public dialogue.
- Showcase your company or organization to hundreds of conference participants with an exhibit booth.
- Submit a poster featuring new instream flow science, policy or collaborative case studies.
- Share instream flow experiences and strategies with professionals from a variety of sectors and disciplines.
- Participate in one of three concurrent pre-conference technical workshops (October 6th).

FLOW 2008 is endorsed by the American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources; the American Water Resources Association; and the Canadian Water Resources Association.

Here you can find more detailed information about the conference highlights, pre-conference workshops, and logistics as well as the registration form.

New document in the eFlowNet library



Proceedings of a workshop on environmental water transactions held as part of the 10th Annual Riversymposium and International Conference on Environmental Flows.

by Garrick, D., B. Aylward, M. Siebentritt, and A. Purkey, editors.

Summary

Water markets and environmental water transactions have become increasingly prevalent components of efforts to protect and restore environmental flows. Although the application of market-based policy approaches to ecosystem services remains limited in extent, legitimacy, and institutional capacity, environmental water transactions have proliferated across diverse social and ecological contexts, and interest continues to grow.

Responding to these trends, a one-day workshop on environmental water transactions was held on September 2, 2007 as part of the Annual Riversymposium and Conference on Environmental Flows. The purpose of the workshop was to convene practitioners and regulators engaged in environmental water transactions, as well as a group of outside experts, to: (a) elaborate the lessons learned from nascent transactional programs and (b) chart future directions for expanding and transferring such approaches to other suitable contexts. Geographically, the discussion centered on two regions with extensive experience implementing environmental water transactions - the Columbia River Basin (U.S.A.) and Murray Darling Basin (Australia).

Get the document

