



eFlowNews - Volume 6 Issue 1

March 2009

eFlowNet discussion series at the 5th World Water Forum



Come and join us at the IUCN Pavilion in Foyer 2 every day for coffee, tea, snacks and the latest debates on how to provide water for both people and nature.

Water scarcity is a reality in many parts of the world causing huge social, environmental and economic challenges. The Global Environmental Flows Network (eFlowNet) has produced a paper that explores how goods and services sustained by environmental flows play a central role in supporting human well-being, and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The discussion series will provide a forum for dialogue on how flows for the environment are the key to promoting long-term sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

IUCN Pavilion in Foyer 2, Sütlice Congress and Cultural Center, Istanbul, Turkey

- Tuesday, March 17th 2009, 15:00-16:00 - Linking flows, ecosystems and well-being
- Wednesday, March 18th 2009, 15:00-16:00 - Water resources management and policy
- Thursday, March 19th 2009, 15:00-16:00 - The risks and opportunities of climate change
- Friday, March 20th 2009, 12:00-13:00 - The economics of securing environmental flows
- Saturday, March 21st 2009, 15:00-16:00 - Conclusions and ways forward

eFlows @ World Water Forum



The 5th World Water Forum is taking place in Istanbul next week with over 100 thematic sessions, including one on environmental flows on March 20th. If you are attending the Forum come and join the discussions and debate.

The 5th World Water Forum held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 16 to 22 March, gathers more than 25,000 experts to find sustainable solutions to the water challenges the world faces.

IUCN is convening a session at the 5th World Water Forum on "Spreading the wealth: How to share the benefits of nature?" (Session 3.3.2) on March 20th between 14:30-16:30 and 17:00-19:00.

The first part of the session is on "Balancing competing water needs across sectors", which examines the competing and conflicting needs that different sectors require from freshwater resources. Specific questions to be answered include

- o Why are ecosystem services key to different sectors?
- o What is needed to coordinate benefit sharing between sectors?

The second part focuses on the "Benefits of environmental flows beyond ecosystems". Specific questions to be addressed include

- o How does maintaining flows benefit livelihoods and human well-being?
- o How does maintaining flows benefit agriculture, industry, energy and the domestic supply sectors?

Both parts of the session will aim to look for recommendations towards solutions and actions to ensure equitable sharing of water resources that will conserve ecosystems and support people.

Find out more about IUCN and the 5th World Water Forum at:

<http://www.iucn.org/waterforum/>

2009 International Conference on Implementing Environmental Water Allocations



As part of eFlowNet's work on promoting awareness of environmental flows, the Network supported the International Conference on Implementing Environmental Water Allocations (IEWA) in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

From 23 to 26 February 2009, more than 300 participants from around the world gathered in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, to discuss, learn and share experiences on promoting sustainable use of rivers, wetlands, estuaries and groundwater. The conference explored the science and politics of how to balance water allocation that can support both environmental and social needs. Despite increasing international interest and advances in the science of environmental flows, water for the environment is often an afterthought rather than a priority.

To kick off the week and get discussions into gear, a pre-conference workshop "Nuts & Bolts of Flow Re-Allocation" sponsored by IUCN, The Nature Conservancy and WWF was held on Feb 22nd. Through a number of interactive discussions, panelists and workshop participants addressed how reallocating water to the environment means there is a need to change existing patterns of water use and management. Different approaches were presented ranging from the use of water markets to decisions made by the regulatory authority.

The conference was sponsored by the Global Environmental Flows Network (eFlowNet). The Network was profiled at the conference through presentation of a **paper** that explored how eFlowNet can be a tool in influencing water allocation policy.

Four main priority areas were identified at the IEWA conference for future action. First, it is crucial to ensure clarity when communicating environmental water allocations concepts to stakeholders in order to generate political will and understanding. Secondly, river basin planning must incorporate downstream effects into impact assessments and operationalise transboundary agreements. Thirdly, monitoring and adaptive management can be used as tools in real-time decision-making on flow releases. Finally, capacity building and networking are essential to improve information sharing between water professionals. EFlowNet can offer the support needed in mobilizing actions to meet these priorities to ensure flows for the environment now and in the future.

Read more about the conference as highlighted by the **South African Water Research Commission**:

> **DAY 1**

> **DAY 2**

> **DAY 3**

> **DAY 4**

> **DAY 5**

> **PHOTOS**

Contribute to the next eFlow News update



We want to get your input for the next eFlow news update. Please send us your information by March 30th.

We want to share more information on what you are doing on environmental flows, including:

- summaries from past events
- upcoming events
- announcements of projects, partnerships
- highlights of new reports, tools, projects
- proposed discussions

Please send all information to Stefano Barchiesi at stefanobarchiesi@eflownet.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

eFlowNet team

