



**UNESCO CHAIR AND NETWORK**  
For the Sustainable Management of Water and Conflict  
Resolution

**THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF WATER-  
ENVIRONMENT CENTRES FOR THE BALKANS**  
**INWEB**

**ACTIVITY REPORT**

**2005**

December 2005

## UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme Progress report

<b>Period of activity:</b>	January 2005 – December 2005
<b>Title of the UNESCO Chair and Network:</b>	International Network of Water Environment Centres for the Balkans (INWEB)
<b>Institution/Country:</b>	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki/Greece
<b>Report established by:</b>	Jacques Ganoulis
<b>Function / Title:</b>	Chair holder and Coordinator / Professor

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### Summary

(Not exceeding 300 words, outcomes/results/impact)

The principal objective of INWEB and its related cooperation programmes is to promote and ensure a “**Sustainable Management of Water and Conflict Resolution**”, with special attention to applications in South Eastern Europe (SEE, the Balkans). INWEB is an active network, composed of main partners from all the 10 Balkan countries. The principal results obtained in 2005 may be summarised as follows:

#### 1. UNESCO IHP, UNESCO BRESCE (ROSTE), ECE and ESCWA Research, Capacity Building and Training Programmes

- 1.1 Updating inventories of transboundary surface waters in SEE, in cooperation with UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE), the German Federal Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety and The Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med).
- 1.2 Updating inventories of transboundary groundwaters in the Balkans in the frame of UNESCO Internationally Shared Aquifers Resources Management (ISARM) programme and The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) activities.
- 1.3 Preparation of the UNESCO/BRESCE TRANSKARSTBA project on managing transboundary karst aquifers in SEE, as a follow up of the UNESCO/BRESCE TRANSRISKBA project dealing with water related transboundary risks.
- 1.4 Active participation in preparation of GEF DiKTAS project: Sound Management of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System.
- 1.5 Promoting the UNESCO Hydrology for Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) programme by including the Nestos/Mesta River Basin as demonstration member of the international UNESCO/HELP network.
- 1.6 Partner in the inter-regional United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) project on “Capacity building for the sustainable modeling, management and protection of internationally shared groundwater in the

Mediterranean region". The project aims at strengthening the capacity of water management institutions in the Mediterranean region to implement sustainable forms of use, management and protection of transboundary groundwater resources.

1.7 Proposal for training/educational activities in the Balkans: UNESCO From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential (PCCP) - SEE project.

## II. EU Research, Cooperation and Policy Programmes

II.1 INWEB is a partner in 3 current EU research and cooperation projects:

- (i) RIVERTWIN – A Regional Model for Integrated Water Management in Twinned River Basins ([www.rivertwin.org](http://www.rivertwin.org))
- (ii) CABRI- Cooperation Along a Big River: the case of the Volga ([www.cabri-volga.org](http://www.cabri-volga.org)) and
- (iii) TB<sup>XN</sup> - TwinBasin XN ([www.twinbasin.org](http://www.twinbasin.org)).

II.2 Active participation in preparation of EU research project: Science-Policy Interfacing in support of the Water Framework Directive implementation SPI-Water ([Internet site under construction](#))

## III. Dissemination of Knowledge, Results and Achievements

III.1 Developing and distributing data bases on transboundary rivers and aquifers in the Balkans.

III.2 INWEB is a core partner in the GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW-LEARN) to test and evaluate new approaches and information and communications technology tools to meet international waters stakeholder needs in SEE and the Mediterranean. The project will organise capacity building workshops for senior officials, decision-makers and experts and facilitate an internet-based information network establishing a community of practice on transboundary water resources management in SEE.

III.3 INWEB participated at a roundtable on Transboundary Water Management, held in Berlin from 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> December, 2005, and organised jointly by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the World Bank in close co-operation with GWP-Med and GEF (IW:LEARN). The roundtable focused on regional initiatives to promote transboundary water management cooperation, involvement of local communities and stakeholders and mobilising financial resources for action.

III.4 Contribution at a workshop on "Instruments for Managing Shared Groundwater Resources in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (MEDA) Region" held in Beirut from 12-13 December 2005. The workshop was jointly organised by ESCWA, UNECE, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UNESCO and The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), and aimed to increase awareness and application by MEDA countries of the international norms in the sustainable management of shared aquifers.

III.5 INWEB organised a joint UNESCO- ISARM, UNESCO -HELP, UNESCO BRESCE workshop entitled "Bridging the Gap between Scientists and River Basin Organisations", held in the Mesta / Nestos River Basin (Xanthi, Greece and Bansko, Bulgaria) from 30th May-4th June 2005.

III.6 Coordination of a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Advanced Research Workshop (NATO ARW) held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 20th-24th April 2005 entitled "Environmental Security in Harbours and Coastal Areas: Management using Comparative Risk Assessment and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis". The workshop's proceedings are in print.

III.7 Participation at the XXXI congress of the International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAHR) with the theme of "Water Engineering for the Future – Choices and Challenges", Seoul, Korea, from 11th-16th September 2005.

## I. Address and Contact

	Address of the Host Institution	Address of the Chair holder and coordinator	
Name	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)	Jacques GANOULIS	
Function/Title		Coordinator / Professor	
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Website of Host Institution			

## II. Available resources

For each type of resource placed at the disposal of the Chair/Network, please specify its source (cf. Annex 1)

### 1. Human resources

Provided by Host Institution Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)

- Status of the Chair in the organisational structure of the Institution (number of posts contributing to the Chair)  
UNESCO Chair & Network hosted by AUTH  
1 full Prof., 1 Secretary, 1 Technical Assistant
- Number of academic staff (part time), full professors, researchers, lecturers  
2 full Prof., 3 assistant. Prof., 3 researchers
- Number of visiting staff  
Variable (one or two)
- If there are other staff or groups contributing to the Chair or Network, please indicate their number and status (postgraduate students, advisors, consultants, experts, NGOs, etc)  
All 10 active members of INWEB  
3 graduate students, 3 experts, 1 Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)
- Number of administrative staff  
2 part time

### 2. Other resources

- Financial contributions (indicate amount, source and purpose)  
Amount is variable, depending on specific projects.  
Provided by various institutions financing specific projects.  
Projects have specific objectives.
- Material resources (indicate their nature and use)  
*Provided by AUTH:*  
Telephone, fax, stationery, heating, lighting, electricity.  
Internet connection, office equipment.  
All used for running the UNESCO Chair and Network INWEB.
- Space placed at the disposal of the Chair and Network  
*Provided by AUTH:*  
Office space (approx 20m<sup>2</sup>).  
Meeting room (up to 150 persons).  
Reception area (approx 50 m<sup>2</sup>)  
All shared with other functions of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

### III. Activities

(Please, provide short information for each activity)

#### 1. Academic activities

##### 1.1 Education (leading to certification) 2005

###### 1.1.1 Title: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development

Duration: 1 Semester

Target groups: Graduate students, 10 male, 15 female (variable)

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: National

(The course is run in cooperation with the Division of Hydraulics and Environmental Protection, Department of Civil Engineering, AUTh).

Expected results: Enhanced knowledge on environmental protection and sustainable development.

###### 1.1.2 Title: Decision Theory and Risk Analysis

Duration: 1 Semester

Target groups: Graduate students, 10 male, 15 female (variable)

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: National

(The course is run in cooperation with the Division of Management and Regional Development, Department of Civil Engineering, AUTh).

Expected results: Enhanced knowledge on decision support and risk management in planning and operation of civil and environmental engineering activities.

##### 1.2 Training (short term) 2005

1.2.1 Title: Cooperation and Prevention of Conflicts in the Management of Transboundary Waters in South East Europe. This course was under preparation during 2005.

Duration: 5 ½ days

Target groups: The final course will be addressed to young diplomats and decision makers from different SEE countries. The pilot course will be addressed to professionals, who will be able to constructively evaluate the course, provide revisions and feedback, suggest improvements and possibly contribute to ameliorating the contents at a later stage.

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Partners: France, Israel, countries in SE Europe. Participants: SE Europe.

Expected results:

- To enhance communication and contribute to harmonisation of relations between water users and water users groups in general, and countries as water users in international river basins in particular, through capacity building.
- To create awareness and enlarge the knowledge base among diplomats, decision makers and experts on major triggers of tension and water related conflicts, as well as on major strategies that may defuse them and that may unlock potential for cooperation.
- To create a new generation of professionals with a shared experience, with a common language and definition set and with respect and appreciation for each others' culture and identity.
- To assist in levelling the playing field as a condition for building agreements and for institutional sustainability through capacity building.

- To provide management tools in the grey area between political and technical fields based on thorough reviews of approaches that develop and promote conflict prevention and tension mitigation.
- (The course is run in cooperation with UNESCO Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential (PCCP).

### 1.3 EU Research Projects 2005

#### 1.3.1 Title: A Regional Model for Integrated Water Management in Twinned River Basins (RIVERTWIN).

Duration: 2004-2006 (3 years)

Target groups: Public institutions and administrators, all citizens

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Europe, Africa, and Asia

Intended use of results:

- Transfer of knowledge and technology to developing countries
- Results may be used as tools for sustainable water resources management at river catchment scale.
- Implementation of EU Water Framework Directive

#### 1.3.2 Title: Cooperation Along a Big River: the case of Volga River (Russia) (CABRI – Volga).

Duration: 2004-2007 (2 years and 3 months)

Target groups: Public institutions and administrators, all citizens

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Europe, and Asia

Intended use of results:

CABRI-Volga is an international coordination action to facilitate cooperation and to coordinate research in environmental risk management in large river basins in the EU, Russia & the New Independent States (NIS).

Results will contribute to enhance existing initiatives on the development of coordination mechanisms along the basin, such as the establishment of the Volga Basin Council

- the establishment of a State Fund for the Protection of Small Rivers in the Volga Basin
- the establishment of a national committee for the International Human Dimension Programme on Global Environmental Change

#### 1.3.3 Title: Science-Policy Interfacing in support of the Water Framework Directive implementation (SPI-Water). This project was under preparation during 2005.

Duration: (2006-2008) 2 years

Target groups: Scientists, policy makers, public institutions and administrators.

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, UK, Cyprus, Belgium, Greece, Belgium, Germany, France, Lebanon, Morocco.

Intended use of results: The results will provide a mechanism allowing operational links between research scientists and policy makers, which will enhance progress with respect to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive with an impact on the European Water Initiative.

#### 1.3.4 Title: TwinBasinXN (TB<sup>XN</sup>)

Duration 4 years

Target groups: River basin organisations, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) specialists, NGOs, companies, stakeholders in water uses

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Worldwide

Intended use of results: To enhance human resources capacities and disseminate shared knowledge regarding administrative, technical, institutional aspects of managing river basins in different geographical, political or economic contexts.

## 1.4 UNESCO Research Projects

1.4.1 Title: UNESCO Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) (coordinated by UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP). UNESCO Chair INWEB is responsible for the UNESCO ISARM BALKANS programme covering all countries in SE Europe.

Duration: The UNESCO ISARM project is included in the UNESCO 2004-2007 programme.

Target groups: Scientists, policy makers, diplomats, public institutions and administrators.

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: UNESCO-ISARM is currently active in Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean and SE Europe. UNESCO ISARM BALKANS covers Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, FYR of Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Turkey.

Intended use of results: UNESCO-ISARM-BALKANS will develop and review an inventory of the existing internationally shared groundwater aquifers located in the region and then taking these results into consideration, detail pilot projects and formulate specific actions.

1.4.2 Title: Capacity building for sustainable utilisation, management and protection of internationally shared groundwater in the Mediterranean region

Duration: (2004-2007) 3 years

Target groups: Representatives of water management institutions in selected MEDA countries and European Union Member States in the region.

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Africa, Europe, Asia

Intended use of results: It is expected that these activities will result in increased awareness and strengthened capacity of targeted beneficiaries to plan and management groundwater resources in the Mediterranean region.

(The project will be implemented by ESCWA in collaboration with UN-ECA, UN-ECE, UNESCO, UN-DESA and non-United Nations entities).

1.4.3 Title: Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) Programme: The case of the Mesta/Nestos River:

Duration: 2004-

Target groups: Public institutions and administrators, all citizens

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Europe, Africa, and Asia

Intended use of results:

- Developing tools for IWRM
- Application to the transboundary Mesta/Nestos River Catchment (Greece-Bulgaria).
- Implementation of EU Water Framework Directive

1.4.4 Title: Sound Management of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System (DiKTAS). This project was under preparation during 2005.

Duration: (2006-2008) 2 years

Target groups: Scientists, policy makers, diplomats, public institutions and administrators.

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania, FYR Macedonia (with Slovenia, Italy, Greece).

Intended use of results:

- reduced environmental stress derived from the disintegrated management of its water and land resources and the means to link these towards the preservation of the unique aquatic habitats that depend on the Dinaric Karst waters.



- a sound foundation, in terms of political agreements, drawing on scientific hydrogeological analyses, to identify the issues that are significant for Karst aquifers in terms of transboundary impacts
- a strengthened regional and national capacity to address the risks emanating from transboundary impacts of land use on the Karst Aquifer and to its ecosystems and biodiversity, based on regular data exchange
- demonstration of the viability of innovative solutions and approaches to manage and mitigate the risks in priority regions where urgent actions are deemed to be necessary.

1.4.5 Title: Assessment And Management of Transboundary Water Related Risks in The Balkans (TRANSRISKBA).

Duration: 1 year

Target groups: Scientists, policy makers, diplomats, public institutions and administrators.

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, FYR of Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Turkey, Germany and Austria.

Intended use of results:

- Identification of the transboundary areas where potential conflicts on water sharing may be generated and where cooperative studies for water development and environmental protection projects should be planned.
- Development and sharing of common databases.
- Setting of priorities and formulation of a long-term action plan in order to promote effective cooperation between Balkan countries and alleviate potential risks of conflicts in transboundary water management issues.

(The project was developed in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety, Zinke Environmental, Austria, and GWP-Med, Greece).

1.4.6 Title: Managing Transboundary Karst Aquifers in the Balkans (TRANSKARSTBA). This project was under preparation during 2005.

Duration: 1 year

Target groups: Scientists, policy makers, diplomats, public institutions and administrators.

Geographical coverage for partners and participants: Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, FYR of Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Turkey.

Intended use of results:

- Review and publication of inventories on internationally shared surface and ground-waters in SEE
- Development on the WEB of a special site on transboundary karst in SEE including common databases.
- Setting of priorities for local cooperative studies and formulation of a project on transboundary karst

## 2. **Conferences / Meetings**

- Title for each conference, meeting organised by the Chair/Network
- Dates and place
- Participants (number and geographical coverage)

### 2.1 INWEB Board of Management meeting

8<sup>th</sup> February, 2005, Thessaloniki, Greece

Participants: Total 8

Croatia (1); Greece (6); Slovenia (1).

## 2.2. INWEB General Assembly

11<sup>th</sup> January 2005, Thessaloniki, Greece

Participants: Total 10

Greece (10)

## 2.3. Environmental Security in Harbours and Coastal Areas: Management using Comparative Risk Assessment and Multi-Decision Analysis

20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April 2005, Perea, Greece

Participants: Total 47

Armenia (1) Belarus (1); Croatia (1) Czech Republic (1) Egypt (4); Finland (1) Greece (5); Israel (3) Italy (3); Lithuania (1) Morocco (1); Netherlands (1); Norway (1); Portugal (2); Russia (5) South Africa (1); Turkey (1); U.K. (1); USA (14);

## 2.4. Bridging the Gap between Scientists and River Basin Organisations

30<sup>th</sup> May-4<sup>th</sup> June 2005, Xanthi, Greece and Bansko, Bulgaria

Participants : Total 29

Albania (1); Bulgaria (6); France (4); Germany (1); Greece (8); Netherlands (1); Northern Ireland (1) ; Portugal (1); Slovak Republic (1) Slovenia (1) ; Sweden (1); Switzerland (1); Turkey (1); U.K. (1) ;

### 3. **Interuniversity Exchanges/ Partnerships**

(Please specify:

Name and institutions involved in the exchange and partnership, number of persons- staff and students received, staff and students sent on exchange)

EU Socrates Programme. 2-5 student exchanges per year between France, Germany, Austria and Greece.

### 4. **Publication and multimedia materials (2005)**

(Please estimate costs of publications and expected revenues from their sale)

#### **Papers**

Aureli and J. Ganoulis: "The UNESCO Project on Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management (UNESCO/ISARM): Overview and Recent Developments", in: G. Stournaras et al. (eds) Proc. 7<sup>th</sup> Hellenic Hydrogeological Conference, Vol. II, pp.35-46, Hellenic Chapter of IAH, Athens, 2005

Ganoulis J., K. Zardava and C. Kiourtsidis: "Modelling River Water Quality from Diffuse Sources at the Catchment Scale. In: Proc. XXXI IAHR Congress, Theme F: Fresh Water Crisis-Trends, Challenges and Global Change, paper. F05-5, Seoul, Korea, Sept. 11-16, 2005

Zardava K., C. Kiourtsidis and J. Ganoulis: "Pollution Simulation from non- Point Sources in River Basins, in: 5<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Greek Committee for Water Resources Management, Xanthi, 6-9 April 2005

#### **Teaching/learning material**

Title: Co-operation and Prevention of Conflicts in the Management of Transboundary Waters in South East Europe: Course Book, Reader General, Reader Legal, Handouts

Authors: J. Ganoulis, S. Bogdanovic, M. Zizanovic, El. Kolokytha, Y. Mylopoulos, Y. Shamir

Publisher: UNESCO IHP

Year: under preparation

Language: English

Number of pages: 294+396+193+61=944p.

## IV. Outcomes

Please describe shortly (up to 500 words) the major outcomes of the Chair/Network with special reference to their impact on the human, social, economical and cultural development at local, national, regional or international level. Whenever applicable indicate the impact of activities on promoting gender equality, rural development, attaining the Millennium Development Goals, Education For All and Sustainable development etc.

The UNESCO Chair/INWEB is a network of academic and non-academic institutions. Each of the 10 Balkan member countries has a focal point for its own country's members. Concentrating on transboundary issues, the UNESCO Chair/INWEB promotes a multi-disciplinary approach to water resources management issues, involving scientists, engineers, economists, legal experts and sociologists. It encourages initiatives from the bottom up, and promotes joint training projects and the sharing of expertise.

The main outcomes of INWEB in 2005 were various research, cooperation and training activities aiming to ensure a "Sustainable Management of Water and Conflict Resolution", particularly in SE Europe (the Balkans). These activities address European policies and initiatives on environment and water, and affect in particular European cooperation in the Balkans and between EU and candidate countries like Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania. INWEB's activities generate a cooperation mechanism in support of the EU Water Initiative, and help to meet the following Millennium Development Goals related to water:

- Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water every day until 2015, an additional 120,000 people should have access to safe drinking water
  - Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation every day until 2015, an additional 240,000 people should be provided with sanitation
  - Develop integrated water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005
- These outcomes have a short and long term impact on socio-economic development and on better ways of Integrated Water Management. INWEB shares the idea proposed by different UNESCO projects like HELP (Hydrology, Environment, Life and Policy) and PCCP (from Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential) and also the *EU Water Initiative* that state that at present the "water crisis is mainly a crisis of governance".

One of the main problems of water governance is the "paradigm lock", which is the lack of communication between scientists and professional decision makers. In order to break the "paradigm lock" and to make water governance more effective, INWEB promotes the linking of education, research and professional in the field, as well as partnerships between public, private and civil society actors.

INWEB also enhances the integration of research groups in the Balkans that are involved in integrated water resources management at the catchment scale and strengthens thereby the European Research Area by:

- developing approaches for integrated regional modelling as well as integrated scenarios
- creating links between ongoing and planned research programmes and coordinating initiatives at the national and international level

Dissemination remains a major feature of INWEB, ensuring that the practical use of project results will reach substantially beyond the immediate participants of the project. The most important dissemination channels and tools that INWEB uses are:

- a regularly updated website as the central dissemination platform and knowledge repository, containing all project documents, links to stakeholders and news (see [www.inweb.gr](http://www.inweb.gr))
- press releases and newsletters about key project events for wide circulation of project news

## V. Forthcoming activities

*(Please outline the action plan for the current biennium)*

The principal forthcoming activities of INWEB are foreseen as follows:

- facilitate the exchange of information in the fields of water and environment
- promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation activities in the fields of integrated water management, ecology, environmental sciences, economy, conflict resolution and international waters.
- provide advice and expertise to assist developing countries, particularly the Balkan countries, in:
  - establishing inter-sectoral pilot projects;
  - facilitating links between local, regional and global levels, and harmonising top-down and bottom-up approaches whilst taking into account social issues;
  - raising public awareness and contributing to public education in the fields of water and environmental protection;
  - promoting training and professional development by providing distance learning;
  - developing and updating inventories of existing transboundary water systems;
  - creating and maintaining databases on water and the environment compatible to European Union standards and mainly related to transboundary water bodies (rivers, lakes, and coastal waters)
  - developing guidelines and protocols for the prevention of potential conflicts and the resolution of existing conflicts over water resources and values.

	ACTION PLAN 2006-2007		
		2006	2007
	<b>CABRI</b>	X	
	<b>RIVERTWIN</b>	X	
	<b>TWINBASIN</b>	X	X
	<b>SPI-WATER</b>	X	X
	<b>UNESCO HELP : Mesta/Nestos</b>	X	X
	<b>ESCWA</b>	X	X
	<b>TRANSKARSTBA</b>	X	X
	<b>GO-TRANSKARSTBA</b>	X	X
	<b>UNESCO PCCP –SEE</b>	X	
	<b>NATO Science for Peace proposal for Jordan River Basin</b>	X	X
	<b>GEF-DIKTAS</b>	X	X
	<b>ESCWA</b>	X	X

## **VI. Development prospects**

Action aimed at obtaining a stable permanent status of the Chair/Network in the structure of the Institution

Short and medium term: Research, Training and Educational programmes

Long term: Developing a Virtual School for Water/Environment in the Balkans

Expanding activities: Building a new portal on the WEB, Distance Education

Broadening partnerships: Black Sea, Middle East, Mediterranean region

Mobilisation of resources: Proposing a Mega-project to EU and GEF/World Bank