

***Title: Monitoring and Evaluation Report: Vision for Water and Nature
Project, Final report, IUCN, October, 2000***

Evaluation Team: mixed internal and external

Year: 2000

Objectives of the project:

Through regional workshops, technical papers and panels; the project sought to:

- Support the development of the Vision for Water and Nature that will be an integral component of the World Water Vision.
- Create a consensus on what must be done to conserve freshwater ecosystems for their own sake and for the sake of the goods and services they provide to humanity.
- Specifically address the issues of biodiversity, transboundary waters and the inter-sectoral approach to the use and management of fresh water

IUCN area of specialisation: Wetlands and water resources

Geographical area covered: Global

Donors: Global Environment Facility (GEF), World Bank and IUCN

Overall cost of the project: USD 700,000

Type of evaluation: Final Evaluation

Objectives of the evaluation:

- To examine the success of the project from the perspective of those actively involved in its design and implementation
- To examine the project's impact

Evaluation questions:

- Rationale. To what extent did the project contribute to IUCN's priorities? Was it sensible a project for GEF and the World Bank given their priorities?
- Effectiveness: To what extent did the project produce its expected outputs, achieve its purpose and contribute to its goals? To what extent did IUCN comply with its contractual obligations?
- Efficiency: To what extent were the projects inputs (financial and human) managed in a cost effective manner? To what extent did the project represent value for money?
- Impact and effects: What were the planned and unplanned effects of the project? To what extent did the project benefit key stakeholders?

Methodology:

Data was obtained from the major stakeholders of the project: participants of workshops, Water Nature Day and meetings in Gland, leaders of other World Water initiatives, and donors. Data collection instruments and data sources included questionnaires, structured interviews, IUCN self-assessment reviews, data reports, a financial audit, post-project interviews and a review of publications.

Findings:

- 1) Rationale: Stakeholders viewed the project as highly relevant to IUCN's Programmes and GEF/World Bank priorities. The IUCN mission supports the sustainable use and equitable use of resources, which is compatible with the World Water Vision. Dealing with the problems of managing water resources is essential if IUCN is to promote the conservation of other resources. For the GEF and World Bank, involvement in the project supported its mandate for promoting the achievement of national objectives under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), improved cooperation in transboundary issues (such as management of shared water resources) and improvement in the participatory management of natural resources and coastal zones. The GEF hopes to achieve, through the Vision of Water and Nature, a substantial shift towards cross-sectoral management of land and water resources and their ecosystems with full participation of stakeholders and support by national policy and institutional reforms.
- 2) Effectiveness: The project met its contractual obligations, with some delays in reporting. The project achieved all expected outputs (background discussion papers, regional workshops and publication of the Vision), although some workshops were not well attended and the quality of some contracted papers was not as high as expected. The project achieved its major objective, which was to develop consensus around a vision to conserve freshwater ecosystems.

- 3) **Efficiency:** The project activities were completed with no cost over-runs and at a reasonable cost of outputs; however there were some criticisms of inefficiencies due to conflicts in reporting and implementation requirements.
- 4) **Impact – effects:** Many respondents noted significant catalytic effects of the project including influence on the Framework for Action, acceptance of the concept of integrated basin management, and a new co-operative spirit amongst the traditionally isolated water sectors. However potential impacts on global processes have not yet been realized.

Recommendations:

- 1) The Vision should lead to immediate and well-planned actions. There is a danger that the Vision will not lead to any action.
- 2) The inter-sectoral dialogue that started with the World Water Vision should be sustained and strengthened by the key agencies involved at a global level with the World Water Council and the Global Water Partnership, and with all agencies that have vested interests in one of the traditional water sectors.
- 3) All efforts should be made to convert global policy into meaningful local and regional action as demonstrated by IUCN's Strategic Action Initiative. Organisations must be encouraged to develop their own responsive strategies based on the Vision and to engage the public in substantial behavioural changes.

Lessons learned:

- 1) When embarking on a subject as controversial as water resource management, it is not advisable to attempt to focus on sectors and vested interests. From the start, the World Water Vision consultation process should have used an integrated approach. As a consequence, there are inherent contradictions between the key messages of the Vision for Water and Nature and other sectoral and regional visions
- 2) All stakeholders must feel that they are given the opportunity to make a concrete impact on the outcome, in a bottom-up approach. Despite all efforts made to involve various stakeholders, many local NGOs felt isolated from the process. In the future, it is imperative that more resources and time be dedicated to promote and enhance this form of constituency building.
- 3) For a vision to be effective it should contain as few essential messages as possible.

Language of evaluation: English

Available from: IUCN HQ