

CONFERENCE DAILY

Tuesday 4 October 2011

Messages from yesterday's sessions

Key messages on Economic instruments (EIs)

- Recommended EIs for achieving water security and enabling water to be an engine for growth: marginal pricing (incorporating the scarcity value of water), water and pollution rights markets, buy-back of water use rights for the environment.
- The progressive implementation of economic incentives accompanied by institutional development can enable society to respond to water security challenges.
- EIs are not ends in themselves, but means to an end (increased efficiencies).
- EIs can be a powerful tool for introducing new water sources, e.g. water reuse, desalination.
- EIs can be useful even when they fail! (e.g. drought tax in Israel bringing water issues to the attention of the public).



Key approaches on sustainable financing:

- The challenge for the GE is more than just attracting funding. It is about reducing inefficiencies to make better use of the resources available.
- Increasing efficiency in use of public funds and efficiency in services provision is essential for achieving the green economy as it can:
 - Strengthen political will
 - Make a better case for public investment in water
 - Make more financial resources available for targeting the poor
 - Make service provision more financially sustainable (less reliant on public funds).
- Approaches to improve efficiency and effectiveness of government spending: public expenditure reviews, targeted subsidies, results-based financing, social contracts.
- Efficiency in services provision is a precondition for cost recovery and long-term financial sustainability.



Key messages on green jobs

- A green economy can result in job creation, social inclusion and poverty reduction, provided that supportive measures and policies are put in place
- Conflict and negative impacts on the labour market can be anticipated and addressed in advance, e.g. through social dialogue, participation, social protection policies
- A just and inclusive transition to a green economy requires new skills and training that need to be supported by labour and education policies.
- Sectoral policies should take into account potential to leverage job creation.
- Workers and communities can be empowered through participation to provide water services and solve social problems (Panama). But this requires support, e.g. training programmes, social dialogue programmes
- Benefits from increasing the efficiency of water provision can be shared between workers and service providers, thereby enhancing cooperation and reducing conflicts (the Philippines)
- The green economy will reduce employment in some areas, but has greater potential to create employment in other areas

Coffee Table side event. Messages on Water, Energy and Food Nexus convened by the German government.

The message is to think beyond the borders of your sector. What are the unintended consequences of your behaviour for other water users?

What's for today?

Today's key questions

- How can investments in biodiversity and water technologies contribute to the green economy?
- What are the technologies and the development of green technologies that we may need to encourage and prioritize:?
- Is technology the key factor that will facilitate job creation (or destruction in the case of water)?
- How can asymmetries in development/technology and trade be addressed ?
- Who will benefit from technological change? Will uneven technological capabilities be a new source of inequality?
- Can financing arrangements be a means to smooth out potential inequalities without the process of struc-

The Market Place

Today in the afternoon the 'Market Place' session takes place, which is designed as small group rotating working groups. Case owners will present and discuss their cases in a direct dialogue with the other conference participants. This page highlights just a few of the many cases that will be presented at the Market Place.

Radoslav Barzev, Participatory Water Management Fund for Ocotal, Nicaragua.



"I would like to share our experience in rising funds for the

conservation of watersheds; and also I would like to highlight particularly the fact that such initiatives are successful only if local stakeholders are committed and involved with the implementation process."

Adrian Cashman, University of the West Indies, Barbados:



"I hope to share our experience in Barbados of how we have gone about undertaking the Green Economy Scoping

Study and especially the central role that water plays in defining the challenges and the opportunities faced by this water scarce and densely populated small island with limited and fragile natural resources."

Kristin Schumann, International Hydropower Association (IHA).

"In the Market Place I will present the hydropower sustainability assessment protocol. This is a set of tools for assessing the sustainability of hydropower projects. This protocol can contribute to a greener economy because it promotes sustainable hydropower. It enables existing and future hydropower projects to be more sustainable and to contribute to local development."



Agroforestry and fodder crops establishment after PES, Lake Naivasha, Kenya

Batula Awale. "I hope to learn how in different parts of the world, economic incentives for water management is undertaken- what are the challenges and how this has been overcome: and I also hope to share our experiences in our programme in Naivasha on Payment for Environmental Services."



Water Fund Project in the Guandú watershed, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Photo ©Adriano Gambarini.

Karin Krchnak, The Nature Conservancy

"The Guandu watershed (on the photo above) supplies water to 8 million people in the city of Rio de Janeiro. The Conservancy established a water producer program there which compensates landowners who protect and restore the Atlantic Forest on their lands. Trees planted through the program count towards the Conservancy's goal of planting one billion trees in Brazil's Atlantic Forest, of which just 7% remains"



RiverCare members measuring water quality, Indonesia

Delia Catacutan, Project Watershed Service Payments in Sumberjaya, Indonesia: "I will highlight the potential of localized conservation agreements for natural forest protection, rivercare and sediment reduction between local communities, government and private companies, in promoting a green economy."

For interviews on the spot with case presenters www.youtube.com/user/unwdpac

Conference daily. You can send your contributions to: andrea.vanderkerk@gmail.com

Session 4: Investments and fiscal measures for the protection and improvement of BIODIVERSITY to promote green growth (UNEP)

Overview by: Elisa Tonda, Regional Coordinator for Efficient Use of Resources UNEP, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)



Panelists:



Pablo Lloret,



Batula Awale

**What do you think about the key approaches?
Fill out the toolbox feedback form and let us know!**

Key approaches for investments in biodiversity:

- Investing in biodiversity protection and improvement is a means to improve prospects of economic growth, provide security, sustain development and create opportunities for the poor.
- Investing in conservation of biodiversity to foster its potential for the provision of valuable environmental services.
- Implementing properly designed payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) as instruments to align individual actions with the goals of recovering and protecting valuable ecosystems.
- Deciding on and implementing sound strategies addressed to restore degraded river systems, guaranteeing environmental flows, recovering floodplains, etc... not only from an environmental perspective but also as an integral part of an economic development strategy.

Session 5: The contribution of WATER TECHNOLOGY to job creation and development of enterprises (UNW-DPC)

Overview by: Karl Ulrich Rudolph, Head of the UNW-DPC group on water effi



"Innovative water technologies may help to close the increasing gap between demand and supply of water. There are thousands of water technologies that merit attention for increasing the amount of water for drinking, agriculture, and manufacturing or which will allow us to use water more efficiently" - **Reza Ardakanian**, director of UNW-DPC

Panelists:



Dieudonné Sawadogo



Rajiv Kumar Gupta



Hani Sewilam

Key approaches for water technology:

- Improving technology choice abilities in both the public and the private sector.
- Technology transfers from developed to developing countries
- Adoption of existing water efficient technologies.
- International financing sources to support clean technology adoption.
- Use of success stories
- Learning from other sectors
- Expanding access to technologies
- Reform of global intellectual property regime
- Improvement of skills and trainings
- Knowledge transfer through information technology

Session 6: Water and the green economy in the ESCWA region (ESCWA)

Overview by: Mohamed Al-Hamdi, *First Economic Affairs Officer in the Water Resources Section the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA*



Mohamed Al-Hamdi: "The ESCWA region, like other regions of the world, will need to make many changes in order to move towards a green economy. The most important change in my opinion is the change of the frame of mind. In other words, decision makers need to be convinced of the benefits, not only to the environment, but also to the long term economic development of their countries.

"Some of the useful tools that can be used by countries of the region relate to education and awareness raising, capacity building and technology. Taking water scarcity as an example, we can see that all three tool categories are very relevant. To achieve sustainability of water resources, a strong element of green economy, there is a need for behavioral change of water users (and sometime of water managers and decision makers as well)."

Panelists:



Khaldoun Khashman

The conference participants



A journalist view on the green economy...



Cecy Oliveira, journalist, Brasil
www.aguaonline.com.br

The expectation that I have for this conference is to learn about new forms and methodologies for capacity building for journalists on water and sanitation. In general there is a lot of misinformation in the press about the water cycle. Every week, in many regions of the world, newspapers blame the rivers, the rain, and climate change for the problems suffered in cities.

What we need are permanent capacity building programmes on these themes, available online for journalists to allow them to

contribute to forums and provide accessible information to the public. This would help make sure that the water issue is visible in the daily press. It would also serve to inform journalists that when they are writing about flooding, that the key problem is not the river flooding the houses; rather, the problem is that the houses have been built in the floodplain area of the river, to use a simple example.

In 2007 the Interamerican Network of Water Resources ran an eight-week long online training session for 40 Latin American journalists on water management. Ten of these journalists participated in the Sixth Dialogue on Water in Guatemala, and there was an excellent production of articles on the event. These types of experiences should be made permanent. The invitation to journalists to participate with experts in events like this conference is another great initiative that should also be made permanent.

Conference daily. You can send your contributions to:
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Blog. Add your postings to the conference discussion forum.:
waterinthegreeneconomyinpractice.wordpress.com

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For more news, information and interviews, please visit our conference website: www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green_economy_2011

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