International Waters
Best Practice Database System

(http://www.eco-insight.org)
The Challenge

- **Knowledge Sharing:**
  - How can we capture institutional memory of best practices and lessons learned?
  - During project planning and implementation?
  - How can we efficiently transfer experiences and innovations between physically separated IW managers?
The Solution

• Create a web-enabled database for storing, searching and retrieving best practices and lessons learned.
  – Accessible, user-friendly tool
  – Intuitive structure
  – Self-sustaining population process
  – Low cost
Sponsoring Organisations

- UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)
- GEF (Global Environment Facility)
- IW:LEARN (International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network)
Why your input is needed?

- **Design of Database:**
  - What information should be stored in the database?
  - How should this tool be improved to better serve your needs?

- **Works in Progress:**
  - See the Prototype at www.eco-insight.org
  - Everything, from URL name to database structure, needs your constructive criticism!
  - Your colleagues need access to information about YOUR valuable experiences. Please share your contributions!!
Methodology

Transboundary Water Projects

Output Documents  Evaluation Reports
Project Brief  Data
Technical contacts
Task managers, Project coordinators, Consultants, etc

High level issues, causes, etc;
Capture lessons learnt through analysis, feedback and surveys;
Link issues to more specific actions taken in the field & associated lessons learned -- “drill down”.
Categorize contributions (e.g. long term benefit, transferability, cost effectiveness, etc)

Best Practices

Synthesis of captured experiences and lessons learned

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Sediment control in the Bermejo River Basin (Southern South America)</td>
<td>The Bermejo River Basin, in southern South America, extends over approximately 123,000 km², originating in the Andes Mountains of northwestern Argentina and southern Bolivia.</td>
<td>25-Jul-02</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Pablo Suarez</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Low Capacity in Marine Protected Area Management in the Wider Caribbean</td>
<td>Coral reefs are fragile ecosystems of critical importance to the marine environment and to the economies of most countries of the Wider Caribbean.</td>
<td>04-Sep-02</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Malan W. Miller</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Institutional Framework in the Bermejo River Basin</td>
<td>The Bermejo River Basin, in southern South America, extends over 123,000 km², originating in the Andes Mountains of northwestern Argentina and Southern Bolivia.</td>
<td>15-Aug-02</td>
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<td>Pablo Suarez</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Inadequate public awareness of the issues involved in coastal zone management and in particular the Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA), Saint Lucia.</td>
<td>Coral reefs are one of the most important and beautiful ecosystems on the planet today.</td>
<td>19-Sep-02</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Malan W. Miller</td>
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</tbody>
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Record Details

Summary
(issue, solution, lessons learned, etc)

Options for other details
(project, documents and user feedback)

http://www.eco-insight.org

Sediment control in the Bermejo River Basin (southern South America)

Submitted By: Pablo Suarez

Related Issues:
- Institutional Framework in the Bermejo River Basin
- Hydrometeorological Network in the Bermejo River Basin

The Bermejo River Basin, in southern South America, extends over approximately 123,000 km², originating in the Andes Mountains of northwestern Argentina and southern Bolivia. The river, which flows some 1,209 km, links two major geographic features: the Andean Cordillera and the Paraguay-Paraná Rivers. It is the only river that crosses completely the huge expanse of the Chaco Plains, acting as a corridor for the connection of biotic elements of both the Andean mountains and the Chaco Plains.

Impact or significance of the issue

Soil degradation in the mountain portions of the basin often results in sediment-related problems in the savannah portions. These include diminished opportunities to use the water resources of the Basin in a sustainable manner, impaired public health and welfare; loss of and damage to infrastructure and economic development potential; and undesirable biological impacts on both terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna. Such issues also can generate policies and practices that attempt to solve part of the problem but result in a fragmented and sectorial view of the Basin that exacerbates the localized and basin-wide manifestations of these impacts.

Studies found that more than 50% of the binational basin is subject to erosion processes that range from significant to very severe. While these processes are clearly related to natural conditions of topography, soil erodibility, and water-runoff patterns, it is evident that human activities have been...
Next Steps…

- Improve guidelines and methodology for capturing best practices and lessons learned (based on your feedback)
- Improve usability of the website
- Refine submissions to the database
- Implement strategy to publicize your contributions
- Up to $25,000 in awards announced during World Water Forum (March 2003)