



Annual Report 2007



SIE-ISW-SIA

Secrétariat international de l'eau
The International Secretariat for Water
El secretariado internacional del agua

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A Word from the Secretary General

A Word from the Secretary General

WE WOULD GET MORE THINGS DONE IF WE STOPPED THINKING THEY WERE IMPOSSIBLE...

Easily said, less easily done! And yet, 18 years after it was created, this sentiment inspires the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) more than ever, indeed, to such an extent that it is integral to our actions and attitude.

But how could it be otherwise when, on the one hand the mission of the ISW is close to utopic (that is to say, ensure that everyone's right to water, sanitation, hygiene and a better quality of life becomes a reality), and on the other we must take responsibility for all stages of the projects we promote (design, financing, implementation and ensuring sustainability).



We can only find the right balance if behind this, there is a vision around which partnerships based on skills and complementarity can be built. In such a context, results can only be achieved if you have a network of like-minded people you can rely on who, regardless of what entity they work for or represent, share the same idea of what tomorrow's world should be. A fairer world; one that is based on and takes into account the potential, and willingness, of individuals, groups and peoples to take responsibility for themselves.

The ISW, more than ever, shall continue to listen, to take action and to play its role as a link between people, and shall continue to denounce injustices so that the voice of the people and the voice of wisdom can be heard.

We hope to convince people that we contribute, in our small way, to the building of more appropriate and accessible international cooperation.



Raymond Jost
Secretary General

The International Secretariat for Water

The International Secretariat for Water

The ISW is an international non-governmental organisation created in 1990 in the context of the Decade for Water and Sanitation. Based in Montreal, the objective of the ISW is to facilitate the application of the four principles stipulated in the Montreal Charter on Drinking Water and Sanitation which are:

- Access to water and sanitation is first and foremost a policy issue,
- All actions in this field must be conceived in support to the populations concerned,
- Access to water must be integrated into an overall development approach,
- All water related programmes must include the education and training of the populations.



Mission

- To take action to promote access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation for the poorest, while contributing to meet their other basic needs; and to address the impact of climate change,
- To support the capacity of local populations and their partners to choose appropriate solutions (technical, human, financial, type of management etc.),
- To blend «bottom up» and «top down» approaches aiming at application and innovation in the decentralisation of political choices and financing mechanisms.

Know-how

The ISW has developed know-how in the water sector that encompasses:

- Supporting capacity building among local populations,
- Finding synergies and building capacities as regards institutions,
- Awareness-raising and information campaigns that place integrated water resource management by hydrographical basin at the heart of sustainable and equitable development,
- Optimising regional alliances and supporting global networks,
- Communication and organisation of events associated with lobbying actions.



Who we are

Who we are

The Team

- **Barbara Avila**, Project Manager
- **Jean Bosco Bazié**, Associate Secretary General for Africa
- **Julie Charron**, Communications Officer
- **Raymond Jost**, Secretary General
- **Olivier Normand**, Central Asia Director
- **Gabriel Régallet**, Associate Secretary General for Asia
- **Colette Giroux**, Administration and Accounts
- **Marianne Strauss**, Project Manager

The Board

Chaired by Mr. Roger Lanoue



1 Barot, Nafisa - Ahmedabad

2 Donzier, Jean-François - Paris

3 Goldenstein, Stela - São Paulo

4 Iskreva, Diana - Stara Zagora

5 Jost, Raymond - Montréal

6 Lanoue, Roger - Montréal

7 Lévy, Marc - Paris

8 Mailloux, Benoît - Montréal

9 Muraguri, Patrick G. - Nairobi

10 Oda, Hideaki - Tokyo

11 Ramos, Lilia O. - Makati City

12 Sall, Dame - Dakar

13 Tazi Sadeq, Houria - Casablanca

14 Vasconez, Mario - Quito

Central Asia

Central Asia



Ferghana valley, a large catchment area of around 70 000 km² surrounded by mountain ranges, is one of the most populated regions of Central Asia with around 11 million inhabitants. It is part of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Currently, more than 60% of the population has no access to drinking water or to basic sanitation. In light of the multitude of water-related challenges facing these people, the ISW decided to take action in this region in 1998.

With the aim of creating and strengthening civil society organisations capable of managing issues relating to water, hygiene, sanitary conditions and community development and thanks to the financial support of the SDC and NOVIB, the ISW has introduced a community approach to water resource management among certain rural communities.

The overall approach of ISW in the context of the rural water supply project is based on the following aspects:

- **Building the capacities of water users and committees** by holding regular sessions to share information and transfer skills in order to ensure that all the project components are properly understood.
- **Community mobilisation and participation** in all project phases, to enable the water committee to establish ownership of the process.
- **The creation and strengthening of local civil society organisations** such as water committees, women's organisations and youth councils, able to cooperate with local authorities with the aim of self-sufficiency.
- **Technical and environmental assessments** in order to design appropriate water systems and sanitation structures in line with the technology available, the community's financial capacity, their expectations regarding service levels, impact on water quality and availability etc.
- **Learning by doing and sharing** while creating opportunities to share experiences among the different project partners via annual site and workshop visits.

Eight years after it began, the Rural Water Supply Project has been carried out in 28 villages, significantly improving the living conditions of more than 80 000 people. The work of ISW has led to the creation of the main network operating in the Ferghana Valley that brings together different water management stakeholders and that should make it possible to cover even more villages in the years to come, while consolidating the network.



The Blue Books

The Blue Books



The Blue Book is a document written by and for water and sanitation sector stakeholders on a regional or country level. It provides an independent measurement of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation and provides an objective view of sector policy and strategy. The Blue Book provides suggestions and a platform for action, with a view to providing equitable and sustainable to water and sanitation for all.

Each Blue Book is now supported by a steering committee that has appropriated the approach and guarantees its successful implementation. The steering committee is also responsible for getting the second Blue Book underway in the three countries already covered: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

Throughout 2006-2007 we worked with all our partners to carry out this complex task of mediation and networking, at a pace set not by us, but by the capacities of all involved. Specifically:

- Each country (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) has its own steering committee,
- A Blue Book process has begun in another three countries (Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal),
- A new Blue Book process guide has been produced,
- The international steering committee has met four times (February and October 2006, and April and October 2007),
- Discussions are underway regarding the possibility of adapting the Blue Book process to Latin America, Central America and the Caribbean. The «replicability» of the Blue Book was also discussed during the 2nd European Solidarity Week for Water that was held in Moldova in October 2007.



Sages for Water

Sages for Water



Les Sages pour l'Eau
Sages for Water
Los Sabios del Agua

The «Sages for Water», a title established during work carried out in Kyoto in 2003 at the Citizens' House for Water, fight for fair access for all to water. They pursue the objective of change and draw up strategies for implementing it. These changes concern attitudes, behaviour, institutions and access to funding etc.

The «Sages for Water» are people from different backgrounds: elected representatives, civil society stakeholders (NGOs, unions, consumers), opinion leaders (scientists, journalists artists etc.), financiers, representatives of local, national and international government, private, public and parapublic services providers and young people. All these people share, besides their commitment to international cooperation, knowledge of water management practices in the field.

The «Sages for water» express their views as citizens, as individuals and/or in the name of the Assembly of Sages for Water of which they are members. In 2007, the Assembly of Sages for Water, chaired by the ISW, was specifically concerned with four issues:



Le droit à l'eau
The right to water
El derecho al agua
Das Recht aufs Wasser

1. The Right to Water and Sanitation

While the «Right to Water» was one of the key themes of work undertaken during the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico, the term «Right to Water» is nowhere to be found in the ministerial resolutions and declarations emanating from the Forum.

This clearly shows that we have not achieved unanimity in our aim to make the right to water and sanitation a priority, and we must continue to work in a much more coordinated manner and simultaneously on three levels:

- At an international level to have the right to water recognised in conventions, treaties and agreements among States, regional action plans etc.
- At a national level to have the right to water recognised in national legislation and to ensure that implementation policies concerning access for all to water and sanitation (decentralisation, funding, regulation, arbitration etc.) be specified.
- At local level in Central Asia and Central and Eastern Europe, in order to increase access to services and to involve users and citizens as responsible partners with rights and responsibilities.

In 2007, while remaining available at national and international level, the ISW and SWE, with their local partners, stepped up the installation of services for access to drinking water and sanitation. Alongside actions in the field, we will develop indicators that will make it possible to measure actual progress towards achieving the right to water. For instance:

- Equitable access to water and sanitation: quantity and percentage of coverage; access of the poor and groups living in precarious conditions; improvement of the situation of women as regards access to services etc.,
- Affordable, appropriate and sustainable levels of service in terms of the quantity of water provided per day, the cost per inhabitant and coverage of operation and maintenance costs,
- Participation of the populations and/or communities in decision-making: choice of systems, funding, level of service, tariffs, system management,
- The facilitation role of public institutions: legal framework, financial and technical support.

2. Decentralised Financing

Following the work of the Camdessus Panel at the international workshop in Nemours and in light of reflection on the matter over the past few years, the ISW continues to believe that we need to mobilise much greater financial, human and technical resources much more rapidly than is currently the case in rural areas, small and medium-sized towns and in peri-urban areas. Otherwise, access for all to food, drinking water, sanitation and hygiene will just not be possible.

For the ISW, resources could be channeled to the people who live in these non-priority areas and who are often the most impoverished, through the establishing of a «guarantee platform» at country level.

This «guarantee platform» would provide information on the needs of the populations and on the different sources of financing available. It would develop innovative mechanisms for access to international financing and access to training to strengthen both institutions and governance. The «guarantee platform» would gather the requests for financing and project proposals, in order to achieve a critical mass that would enable unprofitable projects to be integrated into those that could be profitable and to respond to the consumers' needs, even those who have a limited capacity to pay.

During 2007, we defined the outline of the platform. Now we are ready to implement one or two pilot projects.

3. Contractualisation



In a context where public services are decentralised but resources are limited, how can local governments provide water and sanitation services to their constituents?

This is the question that many local authorities around the world are asking. Some are already turning to «contractualisation», a little-developed notion that usually refers to the process of designing and implementing contracts involving public partners in particular. Based on the hypothesis that «it is possible to improve the methods, tools and conditions for preparing and implementing contracts to hasten achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in the field of water and sanitation» (Elong Mbassi, 17/10/2006), we must now understand, adapt and extend contractualisation to other places so that a greater number of communities can benefit from appropriate water and sanitation services.

These reasons, expressed by their partners in Africa and the Middle East, have led the World Bank Institute (WBI) and the ISW to prioritise the theme of contractualisation in their capacity building programme and to undertake a three-year process in the field. A regional workshop was held in Ouagadougou in April 2007. Another is being prepared for East Africa.

Sages for Water

Sages for Water

4. A Shared Vision

Four thousand two hundred kilometres long, with a catchment area of almost 2 000 000 km² and shared by nine countries, (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Chad), the Niger River is the third largest river in Africa, after the Nile and the Congo, and is the largest in West Africa. The population living in the river basin is estimated to be around 150 million, and they live mainly from agriculture, livestock farming and fishing, as well as other production activities directly or indirectly related to the water resource.

The basin offers definite advantages as regards farming, fishing, energy production and economic and social development. However, the repeated droughts of the past three decades, demographic pressure on natural resources and the lack of effective policy and investment aimed at preserving the environment, have led to an acceleration of land and water resource degradation including, in particular, silting up of the river, the proliferation of floating vegetation and weakening of ecosystems, engendering tension and conflict amongst those who live and depend on these resources.



Faced with the increased degradation of basin resources and the ever increasing needs in terms of food security, energy and development, the member states of the NBA¹ decided to implement a **shared vision** process.

As mediator and moral authority, the ISW has been contributing since 2004 to ensure the official participation of resource persons from the field with experience in participatory management. It has supported civil society so that it may be present and contribute to the different stages of the **shared vision** process. The ISW has also systematically disseminated the results of this process on an international level.

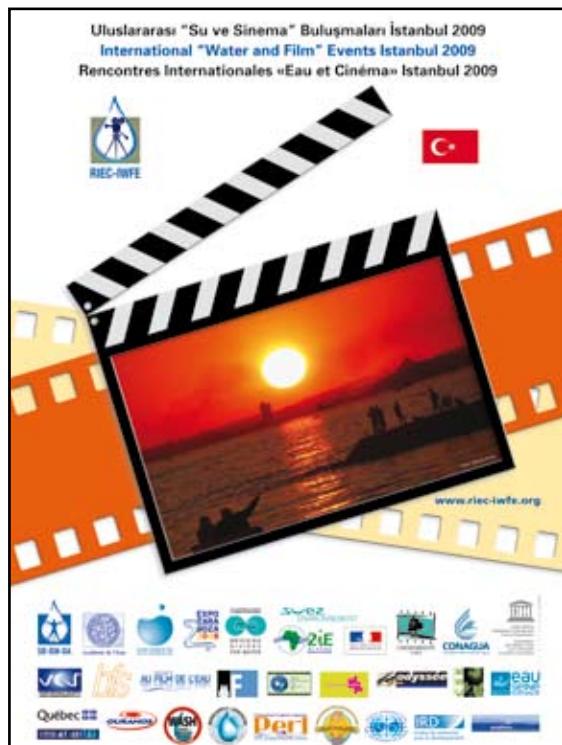
1. Niger River Basin Authority

International «Water and Film» Events

International «Water and Film» Events

The International «Water and Film» events are a joint initiative by the ISW and the French Water Academy. Launched during the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006, these international audiovisual events are held every three years in the context of the World Water Forums. Their objectives are to:

- Enrich the World Water Forum programme,
- Inform the public and raise awareness regarding challenges facing the water sector,
- Promote film production on the theme of water,
- Add to the bank of footage in this field.



www.riec-iwfe.org

Towards Istanbul

Under the overall theme "Water, People and Sustainable Development", the next International Water and Film events will be held from 18 to 21 March 2009 in Istanbul, in the context of the 5th World Water Forum. Around one hundred films, of different formats, selected over a two-year period, will be screened.

The participants in the 5th World Water Forum will be able to attend the screenings and debates with the directors in the Citizens' House for Water and its public arena "Fountains of Knowledge". The Citizens' House for Water and its public arena will be erected on the site of the 5th World Water Forum.

The general public will be invited to attend screenings held in different places around Istanbul to raise awareness, inform and discover water around the world.

Some of the pre-selected films will be submitted to the Istanbul International Film Festival, for its April 2009 edition.

Youth Activities

Youth Activities



*Water as a source of solidarity among citizens:
locally and internationally*

http://www.i-s-w.org/fr/lacs_rivieres/index.html

«A celebration of Lakes and Rivers» is a project that was launched by the ISW in 2006. It aims both to raise awareness among young people in Quebec aged between 17 and 25 regarding the water-related stakes in their country and also to encourage them to take part in **concrete actions** to preserve their river, lake or stream.

In 2007, eight colleges in Quebec took part in the activities. In each of the regions the participants, in collaboration with regional basin organisations and college principals, drew up an **action plan** that they followed throughout the year (cleaning of river banks, awareness-raising kiosks, photo competitions etc.)

Each group in Quebec was twinned with young people from a **developing country** who are also interested in water issues in their country. A representative of each of these groups came to Quebec to meet the young people here and share the results of their work.



Between 10 and 17 May 2007, in the different regions of the province, the young Quebecois met representatives of the projects with which they were twinned. These meetings were held so that they could share their ideas and results obtained during the preparation process, begun in Autumn 2006. The objective was to write and adopt action plans, in which the young people undertook to carry out concrete actions for their river but, in particular, to set up joint international cooperation actions.

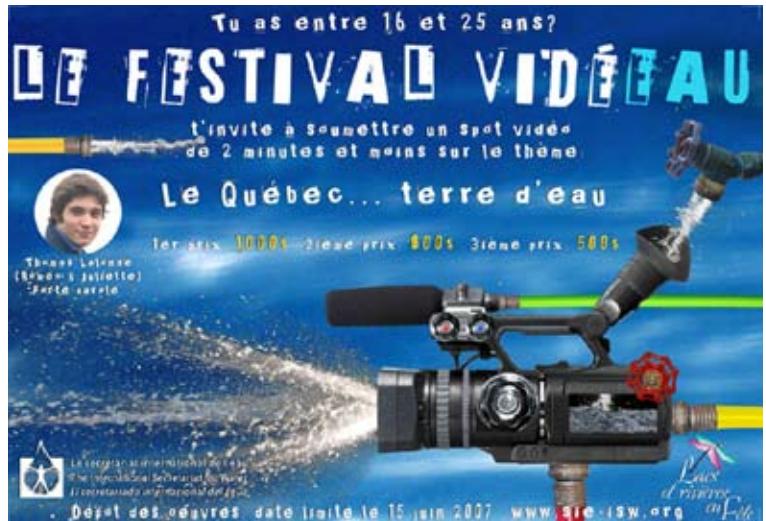
On the morning of 18 May, the action plans were submitted to the vice president of the National Assembly of Quebec, Mr Jacques Chagnon, in presence of the Deputy Under-Minister for Sustainable Development and Parks, Mr. Pierre Baril and the partners of the «A Celebration of Lakes and Rivers» project.

Youth Activities

Youth Activities

The Festival VidéEau is an ISW initiative which was created in collaboration with many local, national and international partners. An integral part of the «Celebration of Lakes and Rivers» project, whose partners include Oxfam-Québec, CLUB 2/3, the Regroupement des organisations de bassin versant du Québec (ROBVQ), Cégep International, Biosphère and the Table de concertation des Forums Jeunesse régionaux du Québec (TCFJRQ), the first edition of the Festival VidéEau came to a close on 15 June 2007 with the public screening of the selected clips. Thomas Lalonde, who played the role of Romeo in the film «Romeo and Juliet» by Yves Desgagnés, accepted to be the spokesperson of the festival:

«For me, water is an indispensable resource and a right, film is a passion. So I combine the useful (and necessary) and the fun by being the spokesperson for a cause that deserves to be taken seriously without delay».



The Festival VidéEau is a competition for young people aged between 16 and 25. They are invited to formulate a message about water, a life-giving resource that is all around us, through the production of a short video clip. These video clips are intended to raise awareness about the many uses of water and the stakes involved. Whether it concerns the pollution of their river, or the water table under their feet, water wastage in their suburb, the majestic beauty of the St. Lawrence River or an ingenious action carried out by local people for water near their homes, it is the young people's turn to tell us how history, culture and daily life in Quebec are inextricably linked to water. It will be the opportunity for them to show us what «Quebec, land of water» means through their eyes and their cameras!



Financing

Financing

Auditors' report

To the Members of
The International Secretariat for Water

We have audited the balance sheet of The International Secretariat for Water as at December 31, 2007 and the statements of earnings and changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Samson Bégin
Deloitte & Touche s.e.n.c.r.l.

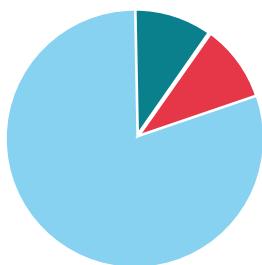
Chartered Accountants

April 4, 2008

In 2007, the overall budget was 1 795 000 Canadian dollars. There are many different funding sources which vary from year to year:

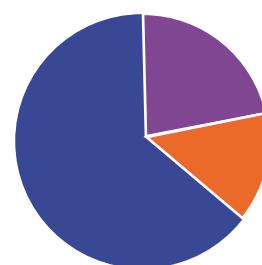
- Canada, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Quebec and Switzerland,
- International organisations and associations,
- Water users, the private sector and foundations.

Breakdown of expenditure



- Projects 78%
- Development 12%
- Institutional Expenditure 10%

Revenue by sector



- National Donors 64%
- International associations and organisations 20%
- Foundations, users and the private sector 16%

Partners

Partners

Since its creation in 1990, the ISW has taken a cross-sector approach that brings together all sorts of skills sets and which transcends ideological differences. From the outset it developed partnerships with people, groups, organisations and institutions involved in projects of international solidarity and/or cooperation.

In Quebec and Canada

Ailes de l'Espérance (Wings of Hope)
CIDA
Biosphère
CÉGEP (Colleges)
Club 2/3
ENAP/CREXE
ENVironnement JEUnesse
FAQDD
IDRC
MDDEP
MRI
National Assembly of Québec
Oxfam-Québec
ROBVQ
Table de concertation des Forum
jeunesse régionaux du Québec

Around the World

AFD
ALMAE
Barefoot College
CAAW
CCFD
CCEPA
WWC
Eau Vive
GWP
2IE
HYDROCONSEIL
IGD
IEPF
Japan Water Forum
OECD
Oxfam-Novib
UNDP
Protos
pS-Eau
RADI
REDES
RIOB
WSE
Suez
UNESCO
UNICEF
Veolia
WBI





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Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français
Este reporte está disponible también en español