

2010

A YEAR FOR FRESH INITIATIVES

**International Secretariat
for Water
Annual Report**



SIE-ISW-SIA



**"True tradition
in all great things
is not to redo
what others
have already done,
but to recapture
the spirit
of those great things
and to recreate
them
in another time".**

Paul Valéry

2010

A YEAR FOR FRESH WATER INITIATIVES

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IN 2010 THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR WATER (ISW) HAS CONTINUED TO HONE ITS PROJECTS, STARTED NEW INITIATIVES AND WORKED ON ITS OVERALL VISION.

Based on the results of an external assessment requested by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), we reviewed our achievements, our documents, our work and our history. This process has helped us to optimise our role as a «bridge» and «broker» among water stakeholders. The evaluation also helped us to consolidate our networking activities, inspired by the image of a spider's web.

THE ROLE OF ISW

Based in Montreal since 1990, the **ISW** is an international non-governmental organisation. Its role is to safeguard the interests of local communities, particularly the most impoverished, by proposing alternative and participatory solutions that respect the local context.

ISW ensures application of **FOUR PRINCIPLES:**

- **Access to water and sanitation is first and foremost a policy issue,**
- **All action taken in the field of water must be designed with the support of the communities concerned,**
- **Access to water must be integrated into an overall development approach,**
- **All water related programmes must include the education and training of the local communities.**



THE DEFINITION OF THE ISW

The **ISW** is a global network that has developed, over the past 20 years, various types of solidarity focusing on integrated water management.

The **ISW** acquires its legitimacy from the principles contained in the Montreal Charter on drinking water and sanitation (1990), in the conclusions of the International Seminar in Casablanca (1994) on «Water, Democracy and Culture» and finally in the principles set out in the Strasbourg Declaration (1998) on «Water, source of citizenship, peace and regional development».

The **ISW** mobilises local, national and international development stakeholders, as committed citizens first and foremost, and not for their institutional status. It involves young people, adults and the elderly, fostering an intergenerational approach based on commitment, equality between men and women, expertise and artistic and cultural expression and sensitivity.

ISW'S KNOW-HOW

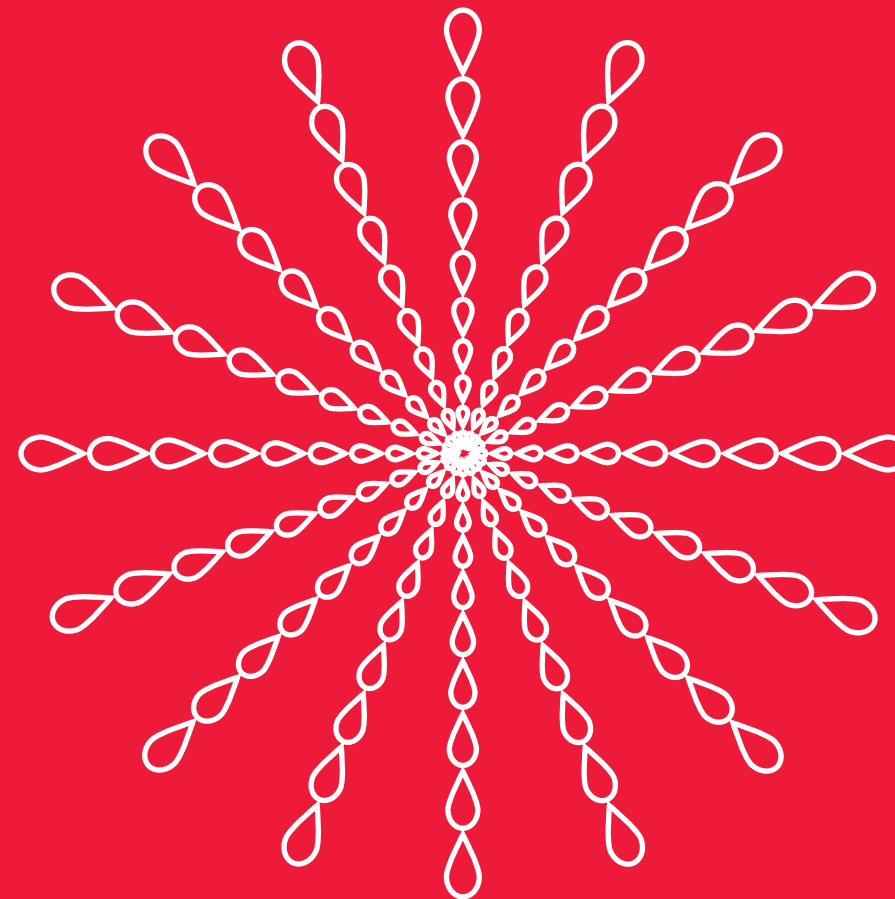
ISW has developed considerable know-how in the field of water, including:

- Working with local communities to develop their capacities,
- Developing expertise in the field and organising multi-stakeholder dialogues including water users,
- Awareness-raising and information campaigns that place integrated water resource management by hydrographical basin at the heart of sustainable and fair development,
- Promoting regional alliances and supporting global networks,
- Communication and organisation of events associated with lobbying actions,
- Mobilising young people to participate in water management from local to global levels.



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

THE ACTIVITIES



CENTRAL ASIA: GOVERNMENTS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE RALLYING ROUND

The Ferghana Valley is one of the most populated regions of Central Asia with 11 million inhabitants. It is shared by Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. A large proportion of the population lacks access to water and to basic sanitation.

In 1998 the **ISW** decided, together with its first partners (Switzerland, Novib, CCFD, UNDP) to work in this part of the world. Our objective was to help create and strengthen civil society organisations and offer rural communities a community approach for water resource management. Today, the living conditions here have notably improved in 42 villages and more than 130 000 people have access to water, education and hygiene.

In addition to our work in the field, 2010 was a year of discussions, exchange and planning for the future with the Uzbek authorities. Winning conditions were identified so that by 2015, the majority of the country's population will have access to safe water and sanitation. In particular, actions will aim to:

- Ensure the sustainability of water and sanitation services and of water for production infrastructure,

- Replicate integrated water management practices, proven in pilot projects, on a national scale,

- Design a funding strategy that will help share service costs among the different stakeholders. Who pays what, how and how much? Users, local and regional authorities, government, international partners etc.,

- Specify a local, regional and national framework for managing different water uses that is appropriate for the Uzbek context without overlooking the cross-border dimension.



A CELEBRATION OF LAKES AND RIVERS

In 2006, the International Secretariat for water launched the project «A Celebration of Lakes and Rivers». In 2010, for the third and final edition of this project, nine groups of young people from different regions of Quebec have been working together on a river in their region.

In collaboration with local experts, they have drawn up action plans and have implemented projects in their areas. Furthermore, each of the groups has been twinned with young people from emerging countries, also involved in water issues.

In 2010, the participating groups came from St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Jonquière, Châteauguay, Québec, Victoriaville, Laval, L'Assomption, Baie-Comeau et Alma. The twinned countries were Bulgaria, Moldova, Burkina Faso, Peru, Turkey, Mexico and Costa Rica.

In May, the young people presented the results of their actions to the members of the National Assembly of Quebec. The national assembly president, Mr. Yvon Vallières, received the participants. The then Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Parks, Mrs. Line Beauchamp was also present, as were the Members of the National Assembly for those constituencies where the young people were working.





THE VIDÉEAU CONTEST IN QUEBEC

In the context of the International «Water and Film» Events (IWFE), the 4th edition of the VidéEau Contest, with the theme «Take the Plunge!», invited young people to produce videos in which they propose solutions and are involved in actions for water. For the first time, the general public was invited to visit the VidéEau Contest website to vote for their favourite clip, which was then accorded the public's choice prize.

The winners were announced during a reception at the Quebec City Hall. The Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Parks, Mrs. Line Beauchamp and the Mayor of Quebec, Mr. Régis Labeaume, presented the prizes to the winners.

The 1st prize was awarded to Camille Mongeau for her film «L'eau, c'est vital»¹, the 2nd prize went to Lévy L. Marquis for «Mouillez-vous» and the 3rd prize was awarded to Philippe Grenier for «C'est pas grave». The public's choice prize went to Xavier Béliveau Candin for «Deviens «Hér» Eau»



THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

The Butterfly Effect is an ambitious public awareness-raising project supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Government of Quebec and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. By raising awareness of the importance of each individual gesture, the Butterfly Effect creates a ripple of solidarity that enables water-focussed projects in Quebec, in Argentina, in Burkina Faso, in Moldova and in Peru to be implemented.

For the first edition of the project, which began in Autumn 2010, many partners in the regions of Gaspésie and Manicouagan, and the towns of L'Assomption and Jonquière, came together to propose a local project. Each region of Quebec is twinned with an international project: for access to drinking water in Peru and in Argentina, for hygiene awareness in Moldova, and for restoring vegetation in the Sahel in Burkina Faso. Based on awareness-raising activities, the Quebec public is invited to support these projects via the website www.effetpapillon.org. Everyone who is touched by the initiative must also tell their entourage: that's the Butterfly Effect! For each promise of support, the International Secretariat for Water will commit \$2 to the project in Quebec and \$2 to the twinned project



THE SENTINELS OF WATER: AN IDEA, A CONCEPT, A DEBUT

The concept of the Sentinels of Water is an initiative of the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) and the Water Sages. Conceived in 2007, the idea of the water sentinels gave birth to a project in two parts: the first focusing on youth and the second targeting young adults and adults.

In 2010, thanks to financial support from «Environnement Canada», the ISW, in collaboration with EcoMaris and Wapikoni Mobile, coordinated a «debut». The project aimed at raising awareness among indigenous young people living in the different communities of Quebec around problems relating to water quality in their environment. The five communities visited during the year were: Lac Simon (of the Anishnabe Nation), Uashat mak Mani-Utenam (Innu Nation), Opitciwan (Atikamekw Nation), Pessamit (Innu Nation) and Matimekush (Innu Nation). The lessons learned from this debut already presage a future full of hope.



The results in a few figures:

380 people were reached by our activities,

60 primary and secondary school students participated in our interactive workshops in the Matimekush school,

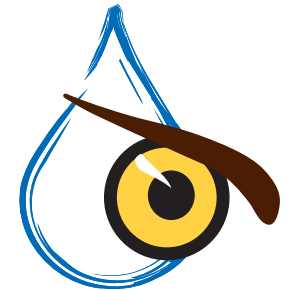
750 trees were planted,

5 film screening evenings on water were organised,

47 people undertook to promote the young people's initiatives to preserve water and ensure the trees planted during the project survive.

In 2010, regarding the «young adults and adults» part of the Sentinels of Water, we initiated the creation of a working group. The group's mandate is to establish a «standard course» that will enable men and women living in villages in the remote regions of the Nunavik to fulfil a permanent role of «eco-manager» and be recognised as «guarantors» of sustainable development at local level.

These two parts of the Sentinels of Water project are complementary and benefit from the added value of being in contact, via the ISW headquarters in Montreal, with other similar initiatives around the world, with a view to developing new ties of solidarity. This will also enable advocacy strategies to be developed for presentation at various global forums dealing with basic human rights, particularly the right to water, to water for production and to sanitation.



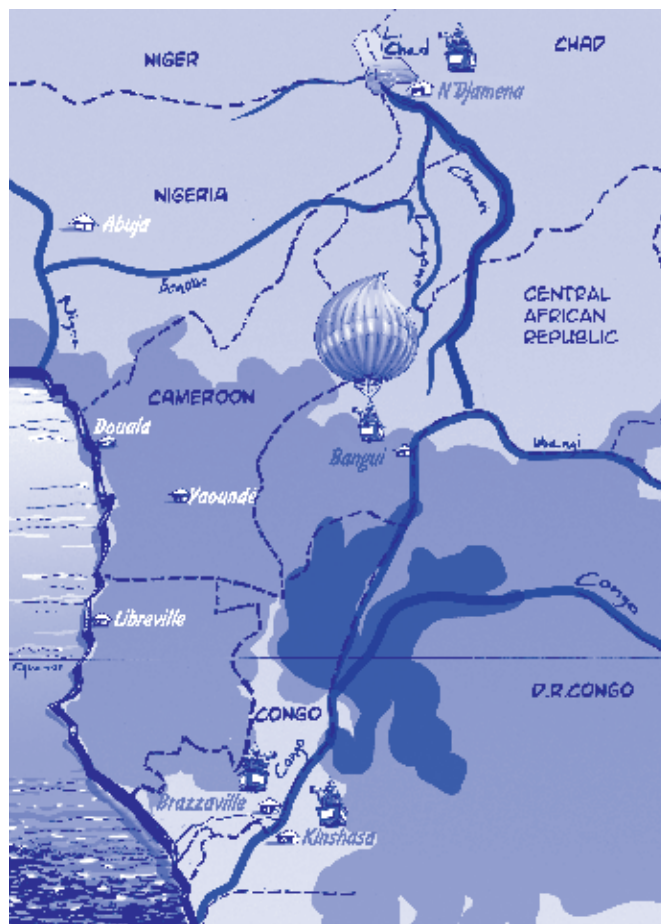
Les Sentinelles de l'Eau
The Sentinels of Water
Las Centinelas del Agua



PROFESSOR HIPPOPOTAMUS TAKES OFF FOR LAKE CHAD



Having learnt of his Uncle Professor Hippopotamus' reputation regarding the Niger River, Cleophas asked him to place his knowledge and his experience at the service of the local communities, decision makers and representatives of the international community who are concerned by the possible transfer of water from Ubangi River to Lake Chad. It is a pressing issue.



THE INTERNATIONAL «WATER AND FILM» EVENTS (IWFE)



2010, a year of monitoring, continuity and revival

After Mexico (2006) and Istanbul (2009) where the International «Water and Film» Events proved to be a cross-cutting tool calling on imagination, emotion and creativity, and the effects of which give rise to more appropriate and fair solutions, the ISW led several activities in 2010.

Advisory support was provided for the organisation of the Paris Water and Film Events. For this event, the ISW-IWFE placed its film library at the disposal of the organisers and supported Eau de Paris in selecting the films, organising the week (18-25 March), in identifying participants and organising the VidéEau competition in partnership with Dailymotion.

In total, more than 1200 people came to the different activities, 43 films were screened and six debates were held, including a preview. In the context of the VidéEau competition, more than 75 clips on the theme of Water and Paris were submitted.

During 2010 we also presented VidéEau clips and other films at the Shanghai Universal Expo, at a conference organised by the Francophone University Agency, at a meeting of all the Swiss ambassadors held in Berne and, finally, in Ouagadougou at the Nuit de l'eau (Night of Water) organised in collaboration with 2IE.

The many discussions and consultations held with our partners during 2010 would indicate that the finale of the 3rd edition of the International «Water and Film» Events that will be held in Marseille in 2012 is eagerly awaited.



WATER SAGES

2010 was a year of review for the Water Sages. They analysed the lessons learned from the various activities carried out by our working groups formed after the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in 2003, which subsequently met regularly to discuss the following three topics:

- **Reaching the Millennium Development Goals (the Blue Books),**
- **the contractualisation of water and sanitation services,**
- **decentralised financing mechanisms.**

In 2010, a fifth Blue Book was published, for Senegal. We also published the 2nd Edition of the Blue Book for Niger. Two field projects show that the decentralisation of services, including funding, is underway:

The Blue Book process for Benin, entitled «Leaual», led by Protos and their partners.

In Niger, the Water and Sanitation for Sustainable Development in 12 Communes project (PEADD 12 communes), led by Eau Vive and their partners.

The main objective of the water sages is to permit local communities to have greater and more effective access to innovative and decentralised mechanisms to facilitate access to drinking water, to water for production and to sanitation.

Also in 2010, the Water Sages put their expertise at the disposal of various events and partners. In Ouagadougou we moderated the International Workshop of the Niger River Basin Authority (NBA) that aimed at establishing the terms and conditions for partnership between the NBA and Civil Society.

In Dakar, in the context of the 8th World General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO), we chaired the workshop on the role of civil society and citizens in cross-border river basin management.



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

PERU

In Peru, the remote Parccora, Huamanga and Ayacucho communities are taking action. The question in Peru, in the three natural zones (the Pacific coast, the Sierra of the Andes and the Amazon forest) is how to shift from drinking water management to integrated water resource management without forgetting sanitation.

It is a challenge taken on by a consortium made up of Asociacion Esperanza Agua y Vida (EAV) of Peru, Ailes de l'Espérance of Quebec and the NGO Agronomes et vétérinaires sans frontières of France.

In 2010, the **ISW** acted as a catalyst to design and formulate a project, to identify funding sources and to establish the necessary partnerships in the field.

During our exchanges and missions in the field in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, we also discussed the utility of producing a Blue Book, and the form that would take.



SETTING SAIL FOR THE 6TH WORLD WATER FORUM, MARSEILLE, MARCH 2012

The **ISW** and its partners, participants in all the world water forums (Marrakech in 1997, The Hague in 2000, Kyoto in 2003, Mexico in 2006 and Istanbul in 2009) will be at the forefront of the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille in 2012.

The participation of **ISW** and their partners in the 6th World Water Forum is based on the idea that only dialogue, mutual recognition and synergy in actions, and in the mobilisation of people and financing can ensure the right to water and sanitation is upheld. Therefore, the **ISW** and their partners wish, through their presence in Marseille, to contribute to the dynamics of mobilisation, commitment, action and results of the international community.



MARSEILLE, FRANCE '12

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Through their participation in the 6th World Water Forum, the **ISW** and their partners are targeting five specific objectives:

- 1 Provide to all sector stakeholders, including users, opportunities for dialogue and encounters both within and alongside the Forum,**
- 2 Continue to strengthen the role of film in sharing knowledge on water and raising awareness on all the different issues at stake (political, economic, scientific, sociological and cultural),**
- 3 Build and defend solidarity and essential sharing of responsibilities involving all stakeholders,**
- 4 Continue to strengthen the position and the role of young people in the future of water,**
- 5 Include culture, artistic expression and local knowledge in the debates.**

SPECIFICALLY

We will be present on the site of the 6th World Water Forum, organising debates, dialogues and artistic performances in the various sections of our Citizens' House for Water:

- 1 We will participate in different thematic and regional groups as part of the preparatory process for the forum,**
- 2 We will instigate actions that will enable civil society organisations to be involved through the Butterfly Effect – from local to global,**
- 3 We will screen the films selected and awarded by the 3rd International «Water and Film» Events on the forum site and in different locations around Marseille, in the PACA region and in other regions of France**
- 4 We will put our expertise at the disposal of Solidarity Water Europe and their partners who are coordinating the**

World Youth Parliament for Water that will be held in the context of the 6th World Water Forum,

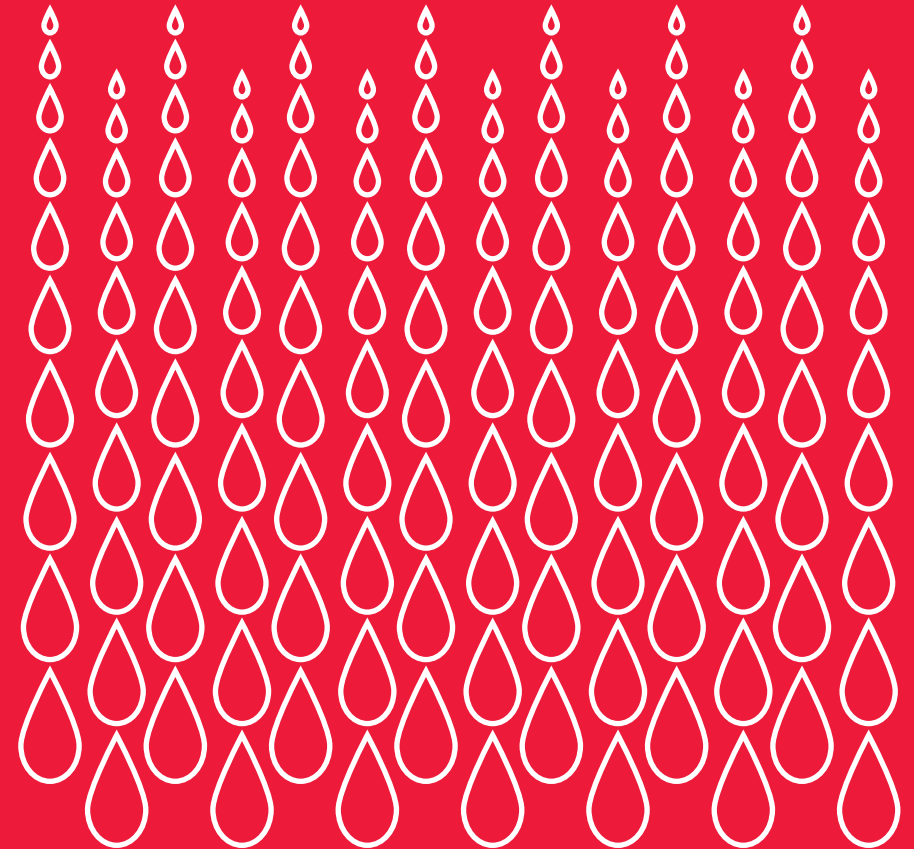
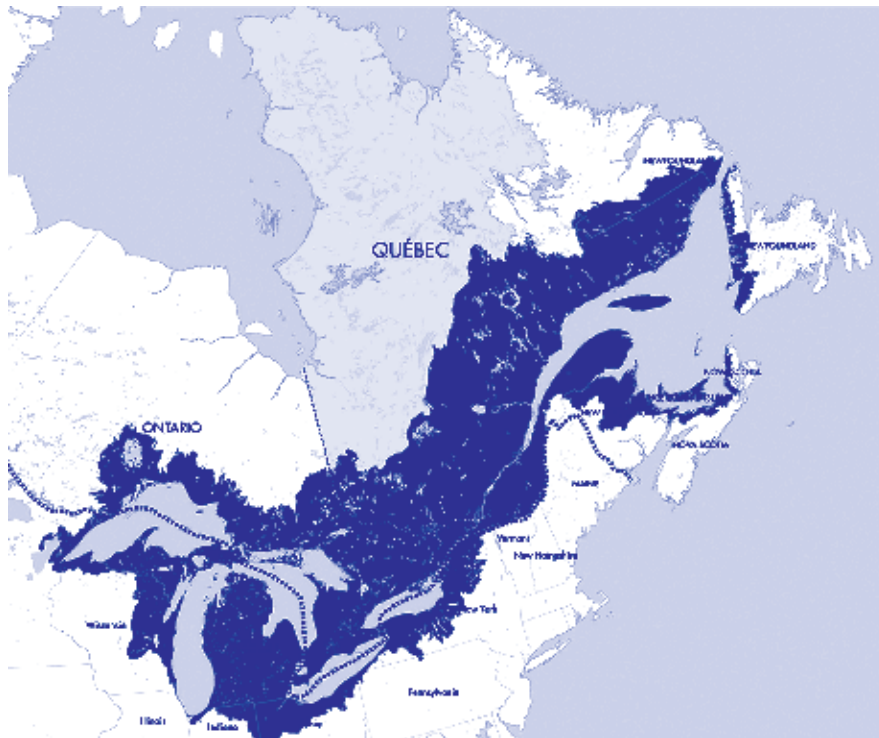
- 5 On board our sailboat, «Notre Dame des Flots» moored at the Quay of Solidarity in Marseille, we will organise various activities (debates, an exhibition, shows, press conferences etc.), linked to the «solutions» developed by the partners in water management around the Mediterranean basin and the world. These activities will be accessible to everyone during the week prior to the 6th Forum, from 5 March 2012, as well as during the week of the forum, from 12 March 2010.**



THE GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE SYMPHONY: ITS WATERS, ITS DIVERSITY, ITS PEOPLE AND ITS FUTURE

The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Symphony is an exercise in building a shared vision that will seek to define the ideal living conditions for 2035 in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin.

- It will be an opportunity to promote the many local, regional and cross-border initiatives for water management in an area that extends from the Western-most tip of Lake Superior to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This area covers six Canadian provinces and eight American states and provides access to 20% of the planet's fresh water resources. This hydrographical basin provides drinking water to 40 million people.
- It will be a decentralised process grounded at local level and will mobilise people as local residents with rights and responsibilities.
- It will be an opportunity to create and produce the «The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Symphony» a performance involving music, images and dance.



OUR PARTNERS

Since its creation in 1990, the **ISW** has chosen a cross-cutting approach, bringing together all types of skills and overcoming ideological divides. It has developed collaboration from scratch with people, groups, authorities, organisations, companies and institutions involved in projects for solidarity and/or international cooperation.

IN CANADA AND QUEBEC:

ACDI/CIDA
Les Ailes de l’Espérance
National Assembly of Quebec
Cégep and secondary schools
Environnement Canada
FAQDD
MDDEP
MRI
ROBV Q and its members
Secrétariat à la Jeunesse - Québec
Stratégie St-Laurent and its members
ÉcoMaris
Wapikoni mobile
City of Quebec

AROUND THE WORLD

ÆSN
AFD
ALMÆ
AV INA
Barefoot College
CCÆA
CCEPA
CME
Confédération suisse
Eau Vive
Esperanza Agua y Vida
Fondation Avina
GWP
2IE
HYDRO CONSEIL
IGD
IEPF
Mouvement Eau et Jeunesse Argentine
OECD
Oxfam-N(o)vib
UNDP
rotos
pS-Eau
RADI REDES
French Republic
Réseau Afrique Jeunesse
INBO
SWE
SEEM (MOLDAV IE)
Suez-Environnement
UNESCO-IHE
UNICEF
Veolia
WBI

THE TEAM

IN MONTREAL

Danielle Audet
Administration Manager
Jorge Barrantes
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Communications Officer
Laurie Fourneaux
Project Officer
Raymond Jost
Secretary General
Marianne Strauss
Programme Coordinator
for the Americas

IN PARIS

Maggie White
Associate Secretary General

IN OUAGADOUGOU

Jan Bosco Bazié
Associate Secretary General

IN CENTRAL ASIA

Olivier Normand
Associate Secretary General
Rami Mani
Engineer Consultant
**+ 17 people based
in Uzbekistan**

THE BOARD

Chaired by **M. Roger Lanoue / MONTRÉAL**

Nasifa Barot / AHMEDABAD
Gabrielle Collu / MONTREAL- TREASURER
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Stela Goldenstein / SAO PAOLO- SECRETARY
Raymond Jost / MONTREAL
Marc Lévy / PARIS
Patrick Muraguri / NAIROBI
Dominique Mostert / MONTREAL- TREASURER
Hideaki Oda / TOKYO
Lilia Ramos / MAKATI CITY
Dame Sall / DAKAR
Houria Tazi Sadeq / CASABLANCA
Mario Vasconez / QUITO

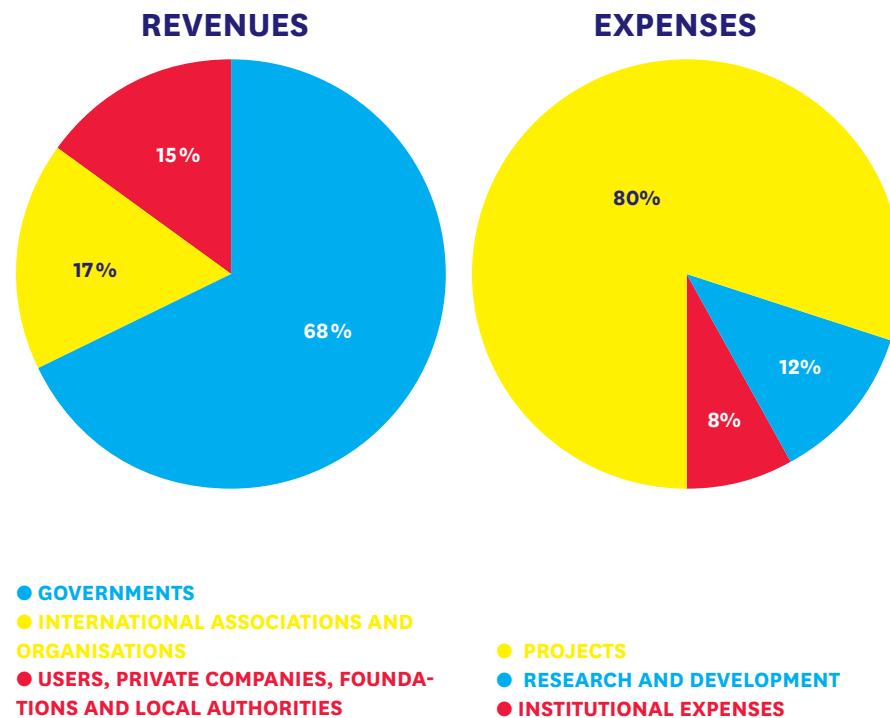
FINANCIAL REPORT

From the creation of the **ISW**, we adopted a policy of fundraising and partnership that is both diversified and multi-stakeholder, excluding no-one. It is this attitude that has always enabled us to maintain our independence and freedom of action, while promoting the dual role of «partner-funder» as one of the bases for ensuring loyalty. The other guarantee, which is just as important, relates to the quality, originality and appropriateness of our actions.

In 2010, **ISW** revenues were 1 893 000 Canadian dollars. 68% come from governments, 17% from international associations and organisations and 15% from users, private companies, foundations and local authorities.

Regarding expenditure in 2010, this totalled 1 905 000 Canadian dollars distributed as follows: 80% on projects, 12% on research and development and 8% on institutional expenses.

After 20 years of operations, we ended the financial year with a surplus of 15 800 Canadian dollars.



THE ISW, SWE AND WATER SAGES FAMILY

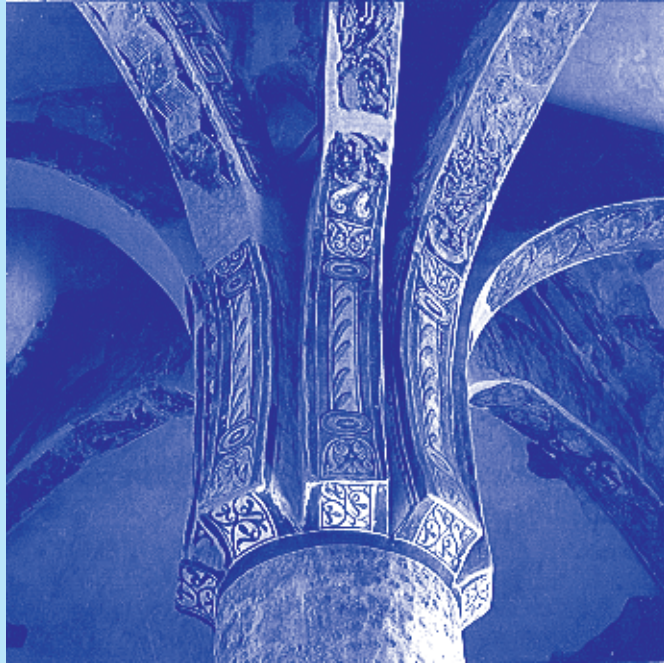
The mission followed by the family was clarified during 2010, it is:

- To uphold basic human rights, particularly the right to water and sanitation,
- To contribute to reducing the gap between rich and poor,
- To contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem between humans, nature and animals for sustainable development,
- To strengthen solidarity among peoples by promoting local knowledge, through advocacy, respect for cultures and power-sharing.

The quest for a more appropriate governance framework was arduous. It required taking into account the requests and needs of local communities, the changing institutional regulations at local, national and international level, the need to seek new ties of solidarity from local to global levels, our partners' requirements, the consequences of the successive financial and environmental crises and, finally, the upheavals in political climates around the world... not forgetting the impact on our respective teams of the many changes of the past 18 months.

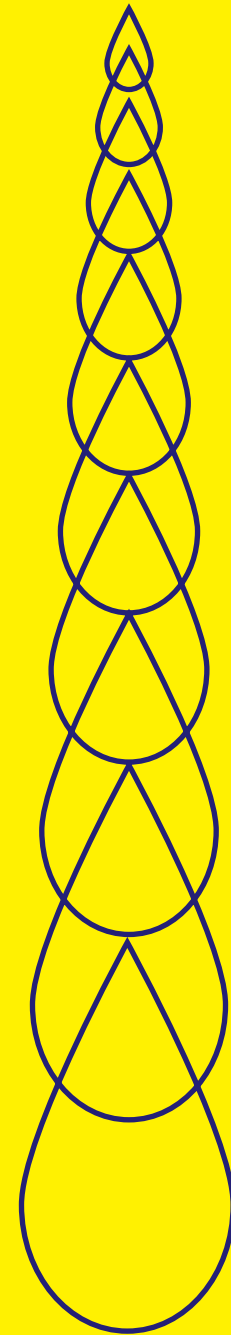
This is why 2011 will be the year that the Fresh Water Initiatives anticipated in 2010 will be put into action.





**Traveller,
there is no path.
The path is made
by walking**

Antonio Machado





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