



eFlowNet
Global Environmental Flows Network



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Environmental Flows for Sustainable Development, Poverty Alleviation and Biodiversity Conservation

Seminar Sunday 16th of August 2009, 14:00-17:30, Room T4

Convenors: Global Environmental Flows Network (eFlowNet), USAID Global Water for Sustainability Program (GLOWS), Conservation International, Deltares, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Swedish Water House (SWH), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), UNEP-DHI Centre for Water and Environment (UDC), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Programme

Co-Chair: Michael McClain
USAID Global Water for Sustainability Program / UNESCO-IHE
Co-Chair: Anna Forslund
World Wide Fund for Nature, Sweden / Swedish Water House

- 14:00 Welcome and introduction**
Michael McClain, UNESCO-IHE
- 14:05 Environmental Flows as a Tool for Hydropower Sustainability**
Peter Bergsten, Vattenfall Power Consultant, Sweden
- 14:20 Promoting BMPs in Thirsty Crops - A solution to stop Indus running dry**
Hammad Naqi Khan, WWF Pakistan
- 14:35 Food and Environmental Flows: Strange Bedfellows?**
David Molden, International Water Management Institute
- 14:50 The Importance of Environmental Flows to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**
Ian Harrison, Conservation International, USA / IUCN
- 15:05 The Red Queen is Treading Water: The Problem of Climate Change, Shifting Flow Regimes, and Environmental Flows**
John Matthews, World Wide Fund for Nature, USA
- 15:20 Summary**
Anna Forslund, WWF Sweden / Swedish Water House
- 15:30 Coffee break**
- 16:00 Open discussion**
Panelists: James Dalton (IUCN), Brian Richter (The Nature Conservancy), Veronica Strang (University of Auckland)
- 17:20 Closing**
Michael McClain, UNESCO-IHE
- 17:30 End**

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Water resource managers are called upon to maximize the economic and social welfare of water users in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. This involves complex and seemingly incompatible goals of regulating rivers for hydro-power and navigation, tapping rivers for irrigation and domestic water needs, and simultaneously managing river flow regimes to preserve other river goods and services (food, fibre, etc.) supporting riverside communities, especially poor communities, and biodiversity.

Environmental Flows have emerged as a conceptual framework and management tool to seek a sustainable balance between river regulation, extractive use, and ecosystem conservation. Environmental flow assessments strive to identify key components of a river's flow regime that should be preserved in order to maintain a desired level of ecosystem function. By difference, the assessments allow a quantification of the total allocable flow of a river.

This seminar brings together a multidisciplinary panel of experts working at the forefront of these issues to explore the latest approaches to meet environmental flow requirements, weigh trade-offs, and sustain biodiversity while maximizing economic and social welfare. We will consider the complicating factors of climate change and open the floor to the views and inputs of all participants in an extended discussion.

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