



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-INWEH

UN'S THINK TANK ON WATER

AN OVERVIEW

9 December 2010, Hamilton

What is UNU-INWEH?

- Created: 1996
- The water “academy” of UNU, supported by Canada (through CIDA) and hosted by *McMaster University*
- Serving as the **UN Think Tank for Water**
- A capacity-development and water-science agency, helping to address the Millennium Development Goals for water



Over-Arching Priorities

- Emphasizing **human wellbeing**
- Facilitating adaptation to **climate change**
- Ensuring **gender equity**

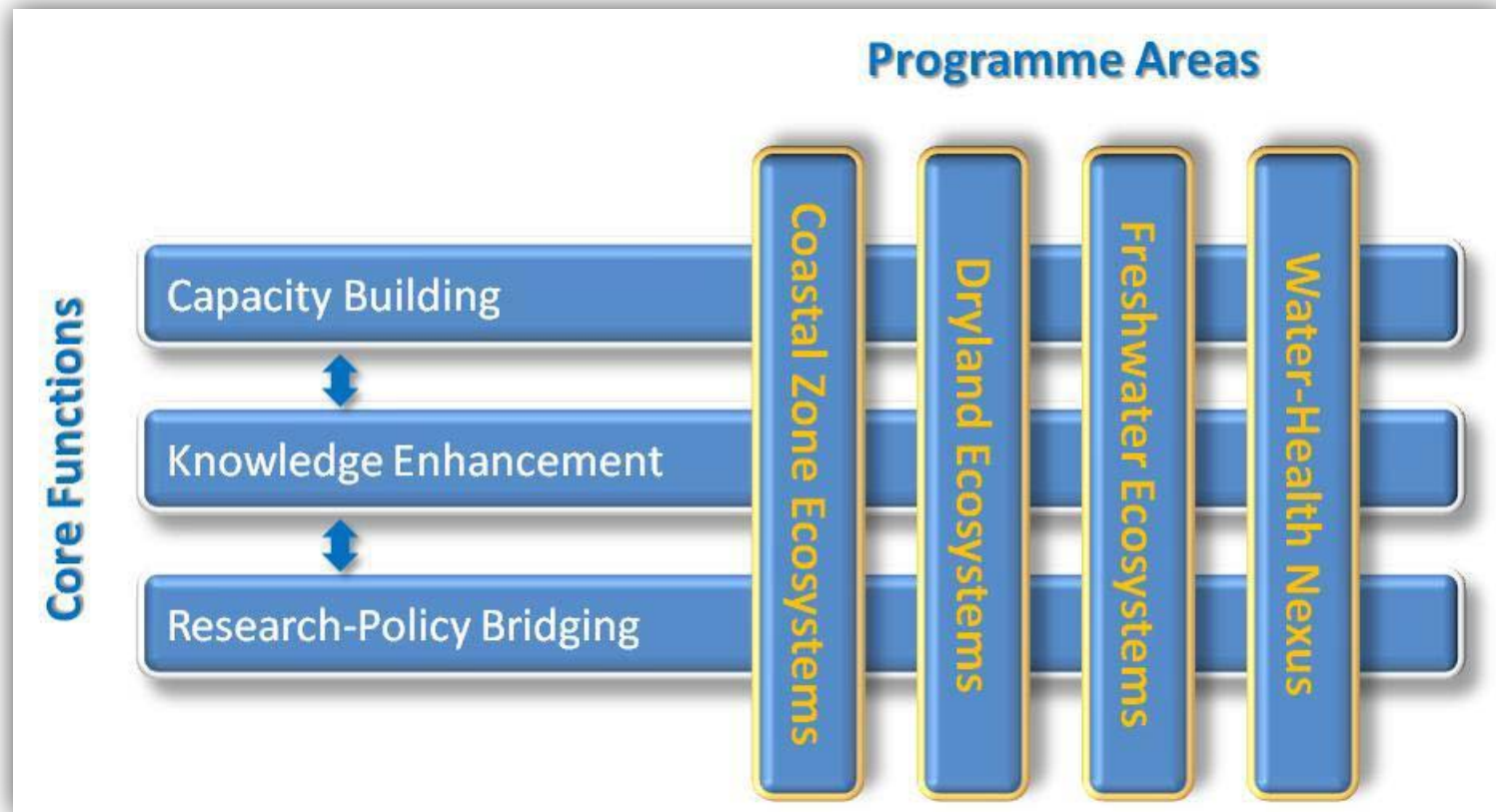


Ensuring Success

- World-Class Leadership
- Strong Engagement with Partners
- Effective Knowledge Dissemination
- Results Based Management



Revised Programme Matrix



COASTAL ZONE ECOSYSTEMS



Strategic Focus

- Deliver sound science for improved coastal management
 - ▣ Focus: **Mangroves and Coral Reef Ecosystems**
- Build on existing, and create new networks, to deliver on the ground practical research, capacity building and management
- Focus on MPAs, research and integrated coastal management
- Incorporate potential climate change effects in activities and management strategies

DRYLAND ECOSYSTEMS



Strategic Focus

- Poverty reduction through capacity building
- Research on alternative livelihoods
 - ▣ Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands
- Global synthesis of knowledge on sustainable land management
 - ▣ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: Desertification Synthesis



FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS



Strategic Focus

□ Capacity Development and Enhancement



□ Knowledge Management

- Mekong Delta



□ Policy Development

- Lake Twinning, Mekong Delta

WATER-HEALTH NEXUS



Strategic Focus

- Incorporating ecosystems into to the health equation
 - ▣ GECHH
- Facilitating the governance frameworks for the Hydro-Social System
- Developing community-level approaches and appropriate technologies





IMPACT



Key Impacts of Our Work

- Input into international policy formulation processes
 - Desertification – Intergovernmental policy dialogue
 - Engagement with UN-Water and leading capacity development dialogue

- Establishing science-to-policy bridges
 - Reef science to impact Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
 - Adaptation of alternative livelihoods in North Africa and Asia

- Serving as a go-to institution for env. knowledge synthesis
 - Millennium Ecosystem Assessment – Desertification synthesis
 - Global Environment Facility – Int'l Waters and Land Degradation Portfolios

- Mobilizing a global network for IWRM distance education
 - Regional Centres: Ghana, Thailand, Kenya, Bahrain, Fiji, Panama, Scotland



Potential Linkages with UNU-INWEH

- Policy-relevant publications of global water issues

- Global mapping of vulnerability to water-related health challenges (*Theme 2*)
 - ▣ Possible link to GECHH

- Joint capacity building activities
 - ▣ Lake systems

UN-Water Members



Introduction to UN-Water

- **Composition:**
 - ▣ Members: 28 UN agencies
 - ▣ Partners: 24 International Water Organizations
- **Objective:**
 - ▣ Strengthen coordination and coherence among UN entities dealing with issues related to all aspects of freshwater and sanitation
- **Focus:**
 - ▣ Surface and groundwater resources
 - ▣ Interface between freshwater and seawater
 - ▣ Water-related disasters

UN-Water Strategic Directions

- Interface with and inform **global policy processes** inside and outside the UN system
- Facilitate delivery of technical support and implementation at the **country level**
- Continued enhancement in **coordination and coherence** at the UN system level



Potential Linkages with UN-Water

- Data and information sharing
 - ▣ UN-Water Activity Information System (AIS)
 - ▣ Federated database system

- Reporting
 - ▣ Water Country Briefs
 - ▣ WRM National implementation
 - ▣ Water score card



Thank you

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Institute for Water, Environment & Health

The UN Think Tank on Water

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