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
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
  - WVLC
  - UN Water Virtual Learning Centre

- Knowledge Management
  - Mekong Delta
  - IW:Science

- Policy Development
  - Lake Twinning, Mekong Delta
Strategic Focus

- Incorporating ecosystems into the health equation
  - GECHH

- Facilitating the governance frameworks for the Hydro-Social System

- Developing community-level approaches and appropriate technologies
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
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

United Nations University
Institute for Water, Environment & Health

The UN Think Tank on Water
contact@inweh.unu.edu
www.inweh.unu.edu