



**Invitation to the  
3rd UNESCO-GEF IW LEARN Integration Dialogue  
“Managing Groundwater in Coastal Areas and SIDS”**

**6-7 May 2014  
Mediterranean Information Office, Athens, Greece**

Mr Jean François Donzier  
Permanent Technical Secretary  
INBO

Paris, 31 March 2014

**Ref:** SC/HYD/86

Dear Mr Donzier,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the meeting: “*Managing Groundwater in Coastal Areas and SIDS*” taking place in Athens, Greece, from 6 to 7 May 2014.

The meeting is co-convened by the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP Med) and the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) in cooperation with the UNESCO/WMO International Centre on Groundwater Assessment (IGRAC) and the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) in the framework of the GEF IW:LEARN and MedPartnership Projects. This meeting is the third Integration Dialogue organized by UNESCO as part of the GEF IW:LEARN project and is also a contribution to the International Year of SIDS 2014.

IW:LEARN is an umbrella project for all International Waters (IW) Projects co-funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Its objective is to strengthen Transboundary Waters Management by facilitating portfolio learning and information management amongst GEF IW projects and partners. Its current phase (2011-2014) places a strong focus on groundwater and on the interaction among different water bodies.

Within the framework of IW:LEARN, UNESCO-IHP, in cooperation with relevant partners, organizes a series of “Integration Dialogues” aiming to: 1) Promote conjunctive surface, groundwater and marine management and analyze options from the GEF IW portfolio in different regions; 2) Identify best and replicable practices and share experiences from GEF IW projects; 3) Review possibilities and opportunities for IWRM/ICZM integration as well as state



of integration of groundwater and surface water management within organizations dealing with aspects of coastal zone management, including in SIDS; 4) Discuss appropriate knowledge management strategies and review existing tools.

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together project managers and practitioners from relevant GEF IW projects, country representatives, regional organizations, and experts on groundwater and coastal management to share lessons learned.

Your participation will be much appreciated and we would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance by filling in the attached registration form by 7 April 2014. Invited organizations shall bear the costs for the participation of their representatives, except for coffee breaks, lunches and networking dinner that will be provided by UNESCO. A logistical note will follow shortly with more details.

For further information related to the content and objectives of this meeting please contact Mrs Lucilla Minelli (l.minelli@unesco.org). For information related to logistic arrangements you are kindly requested to contact Mrs. Shelley Farrington (shelley.farrington@unepmap.gr).

**This letter can be used in support of your visa application for Greece if required.**

We thank you for your kind consideration of this invitation and we look forward to welcoming you in Athens.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Alice Aureli**

Chief Groundwater Resources  
and Aquifer Systems Section  
UNESCO International  
Hydrological Programme (IHP)



**Prof. Michael Scoullos**

Chairman  
Global Water Partnership –  
Mediterranean (GWP Med)



**Mr Lorenzo Galbiati**

MedPartnership Project  
Manager  
UNEP Mediterranean  
Action Plan (MAP)