

Strengthening Capacity of Knowledge Sharing for Managing International Waters of Southeast Asia

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Development of the **Southeast Asia Regional Learning Centre**, or **SEA-RLC**, seeks to strengthen capacity of knowledge-sharing for managing international waters of Southeast Asia. The SEA-RLC is a regional initiative of a four-year global GEF-funded International Waters project - '*Strengthening Global Capacity to Sustain Transboundary Waters: the International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN), Operational Phase*'.

The IW:LEARN project aims to strengthen Transboundary Waters Management (TWM) by facilitating learning and information sharing among stakeholders (<http://www.iwlearn.org>). The latter was launched in November 2004 and is conducted in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, The World Bank, and numerous other organisations. The SEA-RLC initiative is led by the United Nations Environment Programme and implemented by the Southeast Asia START Regional Centre (SEA START RC) of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

The mission of the SEA-RLC is to build capacity for TWM in Southeast Asia. More specifically, the SEA-RLC seeks to facilitate the sustainable management of shared marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems by ensuring accessibility to TWM information resources. The SEA-RLC seeks to support management efforts by establishing an *online information network*, with the SEA-RLC functioning as both a repository, and as a portal linking to existing TWM resources worldwide (<http://www.iwsea.org>). Information resources to be made accessible will include publicly available documents, reports, papers, maps, images and support for geographic information systems.

Development of the SEA-RLC will focus on five core service areas, including: Geographic Information System (GIS) Service Centre to address needs for spatial data and information; online Expert Roster and Specialist Networks; Library of Practical Experience (addressing Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses/Strategic Action Programmes, Stakeholder Participation, Public Awareness, and Public-Private Partnerships); Sustainable Financing Reference Centre; and support of IW:LEARN structured learning activities.

Keywords: Global Environment Facility; International Waters; Transboundary Waters Management; knowledge-sharing; Geographic Information System; world wide web; Southeast Asia