

Day three: March 6, 2008:

K.Emerson welcomes.

The schedule of the day includes identification of projects in the categories of:

- Inaugural projects
- Nascent project
- Future projects

Before that Hilmi Salem from the Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem, provides a presentation:

Title: Towards peaceful climate change impacts in the Middle East.

Hilmi gives a short story of the Occupied Territories.

Gaza's population 1.5 million (360 km²) (Palestinians can move in less than 50% of the area. Water-wise Gaza is consuming water from the Gaza Aquifer. The water is highly saline and contaminated and so does not contain standards of the drinking water.

Hilmi also informs about the construction of the wall and how it has impacted the environment and economy of the Palestinians.

Also about the water rights and that the Palestinians have to buy water (high prices).

Hilmi also talked about OPTs lack of/inequitable access to water/aquifers

R. Sandford's question:

How can we with G3C organization contribute to better outcomes in the Middle East?

Group view: We realize that Hilmi can be a link between G3C and the Arab world and we should use this opportunity.

After H.Salem's presentation we move to the drafting committee's (C.Curtin, G.Sehlke and H.Karl) work on the draft statement.

The committee has shorten the challenge section and made a more neutral statement (for fundraising purposes). They also added a purpose section and put bullets in Approach section.

The comments from participants will be sent by Monday March 10th.

K.Emerson reviews the strategic criteria for selecting inaugural set of projects (copied), and then we review the criteria for specific project criteria (copied).

As an example of G3C projects, H.Karl, R.Sandford and C.Curtin distribute copies of their submitted project proposal to the USGS for a project titled:

“Enhancing the effective use of science through collaborative adaptive management to plan impacts of climate change and sea level rise on coastal ecosystems and communities and marine resources.”

Identification of the G3C values:

Collaborative G3C Value

Interdisciplinary (synthesizing social and economical issues) teams

Shared personnel/interns/Master or PhD

Shared evaluation/methodology framework and impacts (action research)

Shared lessons learned and shared histories

Shared / leveraged funding

International (global) representation

Thematic-water/coastal-marines, arid/semi arid and biodiversity

Desertification/deforestation.

Access via G3C/MUSIC/MIT/USGS and other member organizations, contacts with international organizations.

Impacts/action on the ground (on highly stressed/vulnerable ecosystems).

Political impartiality/non partisan

Publications

Projects:

1. Inaugural projects:

(Already funded)

- Gulf of Maine (C. Curtin)
- Sundarbans (R Basu)
- Northeast Pacific Fisheries (Tom Okey)
- Australia & South Pacific Islands (R. Sandford)
- GLOWA, Jordan Basin (C. Lipchin)
- Borderlands project/rainfall effect on pastoralists.
- Barriers impact (e.g. the wall) on resilience of ecosystems which will be compared with the US/Mexico wall (C. Curtin)
- Q-LF/ARAVA initiative/Environmental education
- Olympic Peninsula -Nasa research/Elwa Dam removal (G. Sehlke)
- Guidance and tools for management of drainage systems in urban areas in changing climate (P.Kirshen)

2. Developing/Nascent projects:

- Gulf of Maine/Baltic sea/Eastern Mediterranean (N.Farahbakhsh)
- Replicate G3C to other areas

M.Davidson's suggestion: strategic workshops, briefings in Middle East/reaching regional leadership.

- India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka transboundary water resources issues/Gulf of Manali
- Policy analysis on small island effect (R. Boojh)

- Renewable energy for desalination (Clive)? (not H.Salem's preference) renewable Energy/water nexus(H.Salem, C.Lipchin, G. Sehlke)
- Columbia Basin energy/water projects which could be a collaboration with the Middle East (G. Sehlke)
- Climate change in Africa (A.Hughes)
- NMPL 'twinning' project- EU call this summer (A.Hughes)
- US AID MERC Israel/Palestine (air pollution monitoring)(C. Lipchin)(on hold, no water connection)
- Using existing West Bank Climate change model to investigate impacts (A.Hughes)
- Jordan/Dead Sea river basin (H.Salem, M.Davidson, C.Lipchin)

3. Future:

- USAIE MERC (air pollution monitoring)?
- Indian Ocean small islands and impacts of climate change (climate stress on small Indian Ocean Islands)
- Coastal Environmental refugees in Southern/Eastern Mediterranean (H.Salem)
- DOE call for climate change/human impacts (G.Sehlke)
- Using natural systems to mitigate climate change impact (A.Hughes)(with planning in the Middle East)
- Transboundary aquifers (H.Salem, A.Hughes)
- Water/air pollution, land degradation, soil salination (H.Salem)
- Groundwater/sea level interactions in coastal systems (A.Hughes, R.Sandford)
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Funding for:

- Base funding for students from MUSIC
- Linkage btw project groups/projects? For example G.Sehlke mentions the possibility of linking NASA project on developing hydrological tools which fits into G3C inaugural projects.
- Funding G3C itself.

Administrative

Criteria for G3C (timeline, achievement, etc)

Communication/workshops/travel

Maintaining website

Media outreach/publications/public relations

Graphic design

Project funding opportunities:

FCCC funding

-EU (which might be difficult)

Are there organizations which can loan money to G3C projects?

-USAID

- UNDP GEF program agencies (e.g. Stockholm connection, N.Farahbakhsh and C. Curtin will meet with the director of the UNDP Water Governance Facility in Stockholm in April).

- Insurance companies
- US state department
- Boston Kendall Foundation
- MEDRC (Bahrain based)
- NATO (security and peace)

In any case we should answer this question that all funding agencies will ask us: “what makes us unique?”

We can create a better learning environment. We base our efforts on Adaptive Management and Community Based projects.

We produce tools for decision making based on adaptive management.

We base our efforts on Human Dignity and Human Creativity.

To Do's:

Providing a summary statement answering the question of ‘So what’ (C.Curtin’s comment)

D.Mattson believes that we still miss our description of our values.

R.Sandford identifies addressing impacts of Climate Change and Capacity Building as key directions.

H.Karl says we need champions to fund us but we should certainly identify our values.

Proposal: Each participant should add a paragraph about their inaugural, nascent or future projects and also add and identifies funding agencies/funding opportunities for the project/projects (will be submitted to G3C as soon as possible).

-To do's (including have in mind and recommendation) also includes:

- Funding strategy,
- Branding
- image/language
- quality control
- Project peer review assessments
- Media release by the chairs also regional launches/regional web sides
- Leveraging, dollars, incomes, connections etc...
- Sharing communications with colleagues
- Administrative funding from Neda (a possibility in fall 2008, with contribution from MUSIC/G3C)?

- Use of Flidridge foundation's search engine for funding opportunities (M.Davidson).
Timeline discussion for the next meeting ended up discussing commitments of people to present G3C in different occasions, international conferences and workshops:

- A September meeting with the participation of interns is preferable
- G3C co-seminar with an event in California-LA on Sept 9th. The two events can be joined.
- World water week, August 2008 in Stockholm
- UNESCO event in Venice
- World Water forum in Istanbul in 2009
- Ground water modeling in China in 2009
- Resilience Conference Stockholm, April 2008
- IPCRI Israeli Palestinian center for research conference

Round up to do's

- H.Karl search for funding for administrative and other issues.
- G. Sehlke calls NASA to find out if he can incorporate G3C in their projects.
- W. Sleeth: strategy for fund raising (existing, prospected funding)
- C. Lipchin: finding budget for interns. Exchange interns with ARAVA, for energy projects: taking the leading role with G.Sehlke and C. Lipchin).

End of the conference.