

COOPERATING BEYOND BORDERS



SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLES OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT

11 DECEMBER 2013 - COUNCIL OF EUROPE, STRASBOURG, FRANCE



Program

09:15 • WELCOME COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

Seminar moderator

Mr. Serge Lepeltier, President of the Loire-Bretagne Basin Committee and Mayor of Bourges

10:15 - 10:30 • WELCOMING REMARKS

Mr. Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for the Environment (video)

Mr. Richard Seeber, President of the European Parliament Water Group

Mr. Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council

10:30 - 11:30 • PLENARY SESSION I THE ITAIPU DAM - SHARING THE FLOWS FOR ENERGY

Keynote speaker

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Permanent secretary, International Network of Basin Organizations

Panelists

Mr. Francisco Pedro Domaniczky Lanik, Executive Coordination Director, Itaipu Binacional Paraguay

Mr. Joao José Passini, Deputy Director for Environment, Itaipu Binacional Brasil

Moderator

Mr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, Senior Adviser, US Army Corps of Engineers

11:30 - 12:30 • PLENARY SESSION 2 THE MEKONG RIVER - FROM A PEACE PROCESS TO A NEXUS APPROACH

Keynote speaker

Mr. Pithaya Pookaman, Advisor to the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand,
Special Representative of the Prime Minister

Panelists

Mr. Trong Tu Dao, Director, Centre for Sustainable Water Resources Development and Adaptation to
Climate Change, Vietnam, and Chair of IUCN National Working Group, Mekong Programme

Mr. Yang Qian, Deputy Director General, Department of Policies, Laws and Regulations, Ministry of
Water Resources of China

Moderator

Mr. Torkil Jønch Clausen, Chief Water Policy Adviser, DHI Group

12:30 – 14:00 • LUNCH

14:00 – 15:00 • **PLENARY SESSION 3**
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

Keynote speaker

Mr. Paul Michelet, General Director, Rhine-Meuse Water Agency

Panelists

Mr. Peter Kovacs, State Secretary for Water, Ministry for Rural Development of Hungary

Ms. Maggie White, General Secretary, International Secretariat for Water - Solidarity Water Europe

Moderator

Mr. Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, Rector, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

15:00 – 15:30 • COFFEE BREAK

15:30 – 16:30 • **PLENARY SESSION 4**
TRANSBOUNDARY GROUNDWATER COOPERATION

Keynote speaker

Mr. Mohamed Ben Salem, Minister of Agriculture of Tunisia

Panelists

Mr. Shammy Puri, Secretary General, International Association of hydrogeologists

Mr. Muhammad Al-Rashed, Executive Director, Water Resources Division, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

Moderator

Ms. Léna Salamé, Programme Specialist, Division of Water Sciences , UNESCO-IHP

16:30 – 17:30 • **PLENARY SESSION 5**
WHAT OUTCOMES FOR TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION?

Keynote speaker

Mr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, Senior Adviser, US Army Corps of Engineers

Panelists

Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Secretary of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Ms. Lesha Witmer, Member of the Steering Committee, Butterfly Effect

Moderator

Mr. Pierre Victoria, Executive Director, Cercle Français de l'eau

17:30 - 17:50 • **CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr. Guy Fradin, Chairman of the Board, Rhine-Meuse Water Agency

Ms. Sophie Auconie, Member of the European Parliament

Presentation

I – BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation to promote and strengthen sustainable management of the world's water resources.

Water has been the basis of diplomatic agreements since dawn of time. The numerous agreements made between riparian States have proven the benefits of cooperation. Joint management of water resources is a long-term social endeavor and examples show the importance of mediation, water diplomacy, information, shared views and goals, and of enabling institutional, financing and legal conditions to support cooperation and sustainable outcomes.

2 – OBJECTIVES

In 2012, the World Water Council dedicated the 6th World Water Forum to the Solutions for Water. As an objective, the Forum intended to improve water cooperation by increasing the amount of agreements and joint management initiatives throughout the world to place inter-State cooperation for transboundary water high on the global agenda.

The objective of the seminar is to pursue efforts made during the 6th World Water Forum by promoting successful cooperation programs and demonstrate mutual benefits of joint-management according to different approaches to feed the preparatory process of the 7th World Water Forum.

3 - AUDIENCE

The invitations are extended to all members of the World Water Council, European parliamentarians, competent UN bodies and policy makers.

4 - STRUCTURE OF THE SEMINAR

The water cooperation seminar aims to promote concrete solutions of transboundary water agreements by demonstrating different assets of joint-management through specific examples of water cooperation:

Plenary Session 1

The Itaipu dam - Sharing the flows for energy

Brazil and Paraguay elaborated 50 years ago a joint program in order to share the flows of the Parana River and meet their energy needs. Nowadays, the Itaipu dam provides 75% of Paraguay's needs of electricity and meets 20% of Brazil's demand. This session will highlight how the Itaipu dam has been a pioneer in water cooperation for energy supply and how hydropower may satisfy future needs within a climate change context.

Plenary Session 2

The Mekong river, from a peace process to a nexus approach

The Mekong region in the 1950's offered, despite the political context, one of the first spaces for regional environmental negotiations. Through the constitution of several organizations (Mekong River Commission, ASEAN) a regional approach is now emerging towards a nexus approach. The session will demonstrate how the issues discussed among the Mekong riparian countries reflect an international situation where environmental, social and economic trade-offs are to be made in order to guaranty a sustainable future.

Plenary Session 3

Achievements of the European Water Framework Directive

In 2000 the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) was adopted and changed water policies among all member states of the European Union by putting the ecological state of the water bodies at the heart of management decisions. The session will review the successes of the WFD over the past years and provide recommendations to further improve the implementation process.

Plenary Session 4

Transboundary groundwater cooperation

About 97% of the world's available freshwater resources are found among 400 transboundary aquifers worldwide. More legal and institutional arrangements to manage these aquifers are needed with strengthened science and policy interactions. The session will discuss transboundary aquifer management from a multi-disciplinary perspective, focusing on its scientific-hydrogeological, socio-economic and legal-institutional dimensions.

Plenary Session 5

What outcomes for transboundary water cooperation?

This last session will focus on the lessons learned from the examples presented during the day. From information sharing to real cooperation, the different sides of transboundary water cooperation will be presented. The role of global legal frameworks will also be analyzed such as the 1992 UNECE Water Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

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SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

COUNCIL OF EUROPE, STRASBOURG, FRANCE
WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2013

SEMINAR CO-ORGANIZED BY



CERCLE FRANÇAIS DE L'EAU



Muhammad Al-Rashed

Dr. Muhammad Al-Rashed is the current Executive Director of the Water Research Center at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

He has a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Hydrogeology from the University College London.

He led and participated in several research projects and published and edited more than 30 papers and reports in addition to several books on different aspects of water resources.

Dr. Al-Rashed was also the Vice-Chairman representing the Arab Group of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Program/UNESCO, the Former-President of the Water Sciences and Technology Association (Regional, GCC), and a member of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH).



Sophie Auconie

Ms. Sophie Auconie is a French politician and a Member of the European Parliament where she works mainly inside the parliamentary committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

She is the Vice-Chair of the Public Services intergroup and member of the Water intergroup. She initiated and drafted the resolution of the European Parliament on the 6th World Water Forum of Marseille and took part in this event as spokesperson of the European Parliament.

As a Member of the European Parliament, she follows draft legislations related to water issues and promote amendments taking into account current water related challenges. Beside her parliamentary activities, she is also Co-President of the French Association "Cercle français de l'eau" and a member of the World Water Council's Board of Governors.



Mohamed Ben Salem

Mr. Mohamed Ben Salem, born in 1953, is the current Minister of Agriculture of Tunisia. He holds a degree from the Ecole Supérieure des eaux et techniques sanitaires de Strasbourg, France. He is Chief Engineer and expert in water resources. He has taught at the Higher School of Agriculture of Mograne, Tunisia.



Mohamed Ben Salem is as Member of the Executive Board of the Tunisian political party Ennahdha, a position held since 1989. He was the leader of the Ennahdha movement in 1991 until forced out of Tunisia. In 2011, after ten years, he returned to Tunisia after political asylum in France where he worked in the field of business.

He is a member of the Association of Tunisian Solidarity in France and has been active in the Tunisian associative network.

Nicholas Bonvoisin

Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin is the Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, and Co-Secretary of the Convention's Protocol on Water and Health, since April 2013. He joined UNECE in 2002 working in the secretariat of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention).



He became Secretary to the Espoo Convention in April 2010 and moved to become Secretary to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in April 2012.

Nicholas Bonvoisin began his career with eight years in hydrological research in the United Kingdom before working in many countries in Africa and Asia over a similar period, mainly as an environmental consultant.

Benedito Braga

Prof. Benedito Braga is the President of the World Water Council. He is also a professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Escola Politecnica of University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. He holds a Ph.D. in Water Resources from Stanford University, USA.

He chaired the International Steering Committee of the 6th World Water Forum held in Marseille, France in 2012. He served as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy and Sanitation of the State of Sao Paulo and was a member of the Gulbenkian Think Tank for the future of water and mankind based in Lisbon, Portugal from 2010 to 2012. From 2001 to 2009, he served on the Board of Directors of the Brazilian National Water Agency (ANA). During that tenure, he became a member of UNESCO/International Hydrological Program committee and was elected President of its Intergovernmental Council. He was the President of the International Water Resources Association from 1998 to 2000.

He is the recipient of the 2011 Honorary Diplomat from the American Society of Civil Engineers and the 2002 Crystal Drop Award for his lifetime achievements in water resources management.

He is the author of 25 books and more than 200 scientific articles published in journals and proceedings of symposia and congresses worldwide.



Jerome Delli-Priscoli

Dr. Delli Priscoli is senior advisor for the US Army corps of Engineering at the Institute for Water Resources. He holds degrees in economics and political science and post-doctoral studies in theological studies from Tufts and Georgetown Universities. For 30 years he has designed and run social assessment, public participation and conflict resolution research and training programs.

Dr. Delli Priscoli has been advisor to the World Bank on water policy and to all of the UN water related agencies. He co-chaired the DG of UNESCO's world commission on Water and Freshwater Ethics. He is author of many articles and books including *Water and Civilization* and a new volume from Cambridge U Press, *Transforming Water Conflicts*. He is the Editor in Chief of the *Water Policy* journal.



Francisco Pedro Domaniczky Lanik



Mr. Francisco Pedro Domaniczky Lanik is a Civil Engineer, he holds a Master of Public Policy and Environmental Sciences. As Executive Coordination Director of Itaipu Binacional Paraguay he is in charge of the Implementation of International Hydroinformatics Center and of the New Ibyty Rocai Biological Refuge and Environmental Center in San Alberto, Paraguay. Mr. Domaniczky Lanik integrated the Committee for the Green Silicon Economic project and the Committee for Professional Technical Support Working Group to study technical, economic and socio-environmental feasibility of navigation works in Itaipu.

He has received several awards and distinctions, by UNESCO-IHP, for his Final Project Work -Advanced Management Program (AMP) - ESADE – in 2012 and as a Professor of National Science Fair Guide and Technology when serving the Ministry of Education and Culture of Paraguay. His work has also been recognized by the Paraguayan Association of Water Resources as an Outstanding Young Paraguay in 1996. Mr. Domaniczky Lanik teaches at the University of Asuncion in the Department of Hydraulic Machines.

Jean-François Donzier

Mr. Jean-François Donzier is the General Manager of the International Office for Water since 1991. He is Permanent Technical Secretary of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

He was Governor of the World Water Council at its creation in 1997 and GWP Steering Committee Member for the last 6 years.

Engineer General in Bridges, Water and Forestry of the French National Corps of Engineers, he was entrusted with very high level central positions in the French governmental administration at the Ministry of Agriculture and the Prime Minister services.

He has managed the French National Fund for Rural Water Supply (FNDAE) and supervised Regional Development Companies in charge of irrigated areas in France (1979-1991). He also managed the projects for the protection of the Leman Lake and the Annecy Lake against pollution (1975 – 1979).



Guy Fradin

Mr. Guy Fradin is the current Chairman of the Board of the Rhine-Meuse Water Agency and President of the Forestry, Water and Rural areas Department in the Ministry of Agriculture. He worked in the Forestry Department of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and in the international Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Subsequently, he was in charge of the economic issues of the Ministry and then appointed Deputy Director for Rural Areas and Forestry. He served as Deputy Director of the Minister of Agriculture Office, regional Director of Agriculture and Forestry in Ile-de-France, Director of Nature and Landscapes in the Ministry of Ecology and Director of the Office of the Minister of Environment before being appointed General Director of the Seine Normandy Water Agency.



With regards to this appointment, he was elected as Governor of the World Water Council: during this mandate he participated actively in the 6th Forum organization as Vice-President of the International Forum Committee. He is now an alternate within the new Board of Governors and member of the 7th Forum International Steering Committee.

Torkil Jønch Clausen

Dr. Torkil Jønch Clausen is currently Chief Water Policy Adviser to the DHI Group (DHI), Governor of the World Water Council and Co-chair of the Regional Commission for the 7th World Water Forum, Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee for the World Water Week in Stockholm, Senior Adviser to the Global Water Partnership (GWP), and Advisor to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR.



Previously he has been Deputy CEO of the DHI Group, Adjunct Professor at the Technical University of Denmark, Founding Chair of Danish Water Forum, Senior Adviser to UNEP, Founding Chair of the GWP Technical Committee, CEO of the Danish Water Quality Institute, and Counsellor in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Danida.

Péter Kovacs

Mr. Péter Kovacs is the current State Secretary for Water of the Ministry of Rural Development of Hungary. Prior to that, he was the Head of the River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, Deputy Head of Department of the Water Framework Directive of Budapest, and Deputy Head of the Environmental Protection Department in the Ministry of Environment and Water. He has two degrees: one in Environmental Protection and Health and one in Civil Engineering.



Serge Lepeltier

Mr. Serge Lepeltier is a French politician, Mayor of Bourges and former Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development. He was General Secretary of the Rally for the Republic, a French political party, and later became its National Secretary.

Mr. Lepeltier is the Mayor of Bourges since 2005 and has occupied several positions as Member of the Parliament and Senator for the Department of Cher. As Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development from March 2004 to June 2005, he took strong measures regarding water and climate policies & legislation. Following his commitment for environmental issues, he was appointed as Ambassador in charge of the International Negotiations on Climate Change from 2011 to 2013.

Since 2008, Serge Lepeltier is the President of the Loire-Bretagne Basin Committee. This Committee allies 190 members representing local authorities, service users and the State, which defines the orientations and significant actions of public interest for the Loire Bretagne Water Agency.

He is a graduate from HEC Paris Business School.



Paul Michelet

Mr. Paul Michelet is the General Director of the Rhine Meuse Water Agency. He is a Chief Engineer of Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry.

After starting his career at the Ministry of Agriculture, in the field of rural public facilities, he joined the Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse Water Agency where he was in charge of multiple responsibilities. In 2004, he left the Rhône-Alpes Region and became General Director of the Environment in Lorraine, France. This evolution allowed him to tackle more diversified issues such as landscapes, biodiversity and planning.

He managed the French Delegation of the International Commissions of Transboundary Rivers, for “Moselle-Sarre”, then for the Rhine from 2007 until 2010.



João José Passini

Mr. João José Passini is Deputy Director for Environment of ITAIPU Binacional-Brazil since 2012 and coordinates the project for Economic and Social Development in West Paraná.

He holds a Degree in Agronomy, specialized in Rural Communication, and a Master in Science and Technology. He began his career as an agricultural consultant during the agrarian reform between 1987 and 1989.

In July 1989, he joined the Agronomic Institute of Paraná, where he worked in the Production System of Sustainable Family Farming until March 2003, when he assumed the management of technology dissemination.

Between April 2004 and October 2012, he served as Manager of Sustainable Rural Development in Itaipu, within the Cultivating Good Water Program Framework.



Pithaya Pookaman

Mr. Pithaya Pookaman is the current Advisor to the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand. Prior to that, he was Vice-Minister of that same Ministry.

In his career, he served as Ambassador of Thailand to the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Ecuador, People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Mr. Pithaya holds a Bachelor degree in History from California State University and a Doctor Degree in International Relations from St. Thomas University.

He also served as Minister at the Royal Thai Embassy in Rome and Counsellor at the Royal Thai Embassy in Cairo. He has also been a guest lecturer at various academic institutions since 2006.



Janez Potočnik

Dr. Janez Potočnik was born in 1958. He graduated with honors from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana. He continued his studies at the same University where he did his Master's degree in 1989 and a Ph.D. degree in 1993.

For several years (1989-1993), he worked as a researcher at the Institute of Economic Research in Ljubljana. In July 1994, he was appointed Director of the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development of the Republic of Slovenia. In April 1998, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointed Dr. Potočnik Head of Negotiating Team for Accession of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Union. From June 2000 to December 2000, he was also the acting director of Government Office for European Affairs. In June 2001, he was appointed a Minister Councilor at the Office of the Prime Minister. On January 24, 2002, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointed him for the Minister without portfolio responsible for European Affairs.

From 1991 until 2004 Dr. Potočnik has also been an assistant professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Ljubljana, where he lectured on statistics and economy.

Dr. Potočnik became a Member of the European Commission on the May 1 2004. In his first mandate (2004 – 2009) he was responsible for the Science and Research. In February 2010 he started a second mandate as a Commissioner for Environment.



In May 2008 he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by London Imperial College. In March 2009 he received the honorary degree from Ghent University (Belgium). In September 2013 Commissioner Potočnik received the United Nations' 2013 Champions of the Earth Award.

Shaminder Puri

Mr. Shaminder Puri serves for a second four year term as Secretary General of the International Association of Hydrogeologists. His scientific, technical & policy experience on groundwater resource management comes from nearly four decades of professional work. His breadth of practical experience derives from having responsibility for a wide range of programmes, including the world's largest water well drilling programme in the Rum-Saq Aquifer, preparing a strategy for restructuring of the coal sector in Ukraine and as global co coordinator of the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management Programme (ISARM) under which an atlas of 273 aquifers was published.

He has worked extensively in Asia, N &S America & Europe as consultant to IFI's, the UN and the EU's technical assistance programmes. He was also one of the prime technical contributors to the UN's International Law Commission's activities that issued Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers, which have been adopted by the UN General Assembly. He was Technical Director of Scott Wilsons multinational Water & Environment business and has held a series of senior advisory positions with UNEP, UNESCO, the EU's EuropeAid programmes and the Asian Development Bank.



Yang Qian

Mr. Yang Qian is Deputy Director General for Policies, Laws and Regulations of the Ministry of Water Resources of China. He has the title of Senior Engineer. With BE and BA degrees in two prestigious universities in China, he has long and rich experience in drafting water laws and regulations, and practice in improving administrative enforcement review, and permitting of laws and policies.

He was in charge of the project of River Basin Management and Water Permitting in the Yellow River sponsored by World Bank. He has published over ten pieces of papers, reports, and books in academic publications or at meetings home and abroad, including China's Water Policy Review and Reform, a report for FAO's expert consulting meeting.



Léna Salamé

Ms. Léna Salamé is a jurist in International Public Law and a trained mediator and negotiator. Since June 2002, she serves as the overall Coordinator of UNESCO's program on Water Cooperation: PCCP.

Ms. Salamé coordinates research and the development of educational material on water cooperation. She also lectures on related issues within the framework of various outreach and capacity building programs.



Richard Seeber

Born in 1962, Richard Seeber studied both Economics and Law. In 1995, he was nominated as the first Director of the newly established liaison office of the Euregio Tyrol at the European Union in Brussels. Since 2004, he has been a Member of the European Parliament and a Member of the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. He is also a Substitute Member of the Committee for Regional Development. In January 2010, he founded the Intergroup on Water of the European Parliament - a broad platform on water aspects for MEPs, representatives of the European Commission as well as stakeholders from Economy, Environmental Protection and Regional Development. Further key elements of Richard Seeber's work are environmental protection, air quality and mountainous regions.



András Szöllösi-Nagy

András Szöllösi-Nagy, DSc, PhD, currently serves as Rector of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, located in Delft, The Netherlands, since 2009.

He is Professor of Stochastic Hydrology both at UNESCO-IHE and TU Delft. Prior to that, he was Secretary of UNESCO's International Hydrological Program (IHP) for 20 years.

Earlier in his career, he was working at various academic organizations including Inter Alia, the Water Resources Research Center (VITUKI) in Budapest, Hungary, IBM Italy, the University of Luleå in Sweden, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria, AIT, in Bangkok, Thailand and at the University of Waterloo, Canada.



Dao Trong Tu

Dr. Dao Trong Tu is the current Director of the Centre for Sustainable Water Resources Development and Adaptation to Climate Change (CEWAREC).

He is a visiting lecturer on Water Policy and Legislation at the University of Cologne in Germany and at the Water Resources Academy in Vietnam and a visiting lecturer on River Basin Management and Environment Management courses of CEDDET-NARBO.

He is a Member for Vietnam in the Steering Committee of Global Water Partnership - South East Asia (GWP SEA) and Standing Member of Vietnam Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (VINCID), and Chair of National Mekong Water Dialogue of IUCN.

He holds a Master's degree in Engineering and a Ph.D on Natural Resources Management.

During his career, he served as acting CEO of the Mekong River Commission, Deputy Director General in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam and Deputy General Secretary of the Vietnam National Mekong Committee.



Pierre Victoria

Pierre Victoria is currently Vice-President of Sustainable Development at Veolia Environment, in charge of CSR and Prospective policies. He is also Managing Director of the Cercle Français de l'Eau and Governor of the World Water Council. Local and regional representative for twelve years, he was a member of the French Parliament (1991/1993). He is the author of a bill on French Cooperation policy reform.

He is the co-author of "Democratic Governance, a New Paradigm for Development", (2009) published in association with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and "Company Against Poverty" Jean Jaures editions (2011).



Maggie White

Maggie White is the General Secretary of two international and non-governmental organizations, the International Secretariat for Water, based in Canada, and Solidarity Water for Europe, based in France. These organizations have been working closely for nearly two decades defending the right to an effective and equitable access to water and sanitation for all, with an integrated and multi stakeholder approach. The activities undertaken are in the fields of advocacy and awareness raising, youth and field projects.



From 2008-2010, Ms. White was the External Communication Manager for the public water utility company, Eau de Paris, during the phase of remunicipalization of the water services in Paris.

From 2001 to 2007, she was the project officer for international relations and partnerships for the NGO Eau Vive and under that mandate also launched the French NGO network Coalition Eau.

Lesha Witmer

Ms. Lesha Witmer is currently member of the Steering Committee of the Butterfly Effect NGO coalition. She is also a UN representative (UNECE and CSD) for Business & Professional Women International, member of the EU Water Initiative CC, a Board member of Solidarity Water Europe and member of the ISDC of the AWS (Alliance for Water Stewardship).

She is founding member and former SC member of the Women for Water Partnership (WfWP).

She works as independent Senior Advisor on Sustainable Development (focus water governance and management; International Water Law and Policy and Water Stewardship) and Human Resources (participatory approaches and gender issues included) and vocational training.

