

Integrated Trans-boundary River Management Policy Development (INTREPID)

Project Coordinator: Dr. [Kevin Urama](mailto:kurama@atpsnet.org), e-mail: kurama@atpsnet.org

Project Administrator: Mr. Grant Davidson, e-mail: g.davidson@macaulay.ac.uk

Project Summary

Livelihoods in semi-arid areas depend upon a biological resource base underpinned by access to water. With increasing human populations and water stress come pressures to harness water resources for 'higher economic value' uses, instead of an integrated approach that includes provisions for ecosystem conservation and livelihood sustainability. Nowhere is this lack of integration more prevalent than in the semi-arid regions of Africa.

The linkages between Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) and Conservation of Biological Diversity (CBD) are poorly known. River basin management, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood programmes in Africa have evolved independently, with often overlapping and/or conflicting goals and responsibilities. The result has been persistent intra- and trans-boundary conflicts; leading to increasing poverty and declines in biological diversity.

This [EC](#)-funded project, which uses the Mara river basin system in Kenya and Tanzania as its case study, addresses this disparity by recognizing that IWRM, CBD and SL are irretrievably interconnected and that water management and policy initiatives focusing on individual aspects are likely to fail. It aims, therefore, to resolve this gap by initiating and promoting inter-disciplinary and international collaboration to integrate sustainable water resource management, biodiversity conservation and livelihoods using the Mara river basin as a case study. It provides a platform for policy makers, practitioners and researchers to consolidate expertise on African IWRM systems and draw on experiences from the implementation of the EU-Water Framework Directive (WFD) to promote and reinforce the vital synergies between IWRM, CBD and SL.

INCO-DEV

The INTREPID project is funded under the [EC INCO-DEV](#) programme which was set up to promote scientific and technological cooperation internationally; to reinforce Community capacities in the fields of science and technology; to support the achievement of scientific excellence within the wider international framework; and to contribute to the implementation of the Community's external policy.

Contract number INCO-CT-2007-043784

Integrated Trans-boundary River Management Policy Development

The project began on 01/04/2007 and was concluded on 31/06/2008

Total EC contribution is € 148,850, ATPS budget (US\$169,690)

Project Publications

Urama K. C. and Davidson, G. (2008). *Bordering on a Water Crisis: [The Need for Integrated Resource Management in the Mara River Basin](#)*, A Policy Brief.

Urama K. C., Davidson, G., and Langan, S. (2008). *[Towards an Integrated Trans-boundary River Management Policy Development in Semi-Arid River Basin](#)*,

Proceedings of a Pan-African Stakeholder Policy Forum, 11-14 March 2008.

Bordering on a Water Crisis in East Africa, [eStrategies article](#),

<http://www.britishpublishers.com/>