

Tools to bridge science-policy gaps

Dr. Alex Bielak, Senior Fellow & Knowledge Broker (alex.bielak@unu.edu)

United Nations University – Institute for Water, Environment and Health

1. UNU-INWEH

(www.inweh.unu.edu)

- United Nations Think Tank on Water
- Core functions include: **Research-Policy Bridging** and **Knowledge Enhancement**.
- Freshwater Programme leads innovative Knowledge Management and Mobilization initiatives

2. KIM-UNU Technology Platform

- “Knowledge Integration and Management – United Nations University”
- Powerful and user-friendly KMS
- Uptake: UN-Water (transboundary matters); Lake Victoria Basin Commission (KMS implementation Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda & Burundi); “Knowledge from Land” (re. desertification); & management of Hima areas in WANA region (21 countries).

3. IW:Science

- Synopsis, analysis and synthesis of science behind GEF International Waters Projects
- 20 years, 180 projects, 172 countries, \$6B investment
- Current and future Adaptive Management, Knowledge Sharing
- Completion 2012 (12 reports)
- New report available @ WWF6 Village of Solutions: «Community to Cabinet : Two decades of GEF Action to Secure Transboundary Basins and Aquifers »

4. The K*(KStar) Initiative and Summit

- KMb, KT, KB, KM & associated fields, collectively termed K*
- Summit in Hamilton, 04/12 (webcast & crowd-sourced Green Paper)
- Summit to identify ‘low hanging fruit’ with ultimate outcome of achieving improved efficiency and accelerating the impact of initiatives as a result of these improved linkages.
- Baseline understanding of the global K* community
- Sustainable learning/resource network

5. UNU-INWEH Policy Briefs & Advice

- Managing the growing impacts of development on fragile coastal and marine ecosystems: Lessons from the Gulf
- Lessons in Lake Twinning: A synthesis of Dialogues on Transboundary Lake Management
- Fertile Ground? Options for a Science-Policy Platform on Land
- Deep Words, Shallow Words: An Initial Analysis of Water Discourse in Four Decades of UN Declarations
- Sanitation as a Key to Global Health - Voices from the field

6. Other Solutions (Canada)

- Knowledge Translation and Brokering tool suite development and work on Environmental Science and Decision Making by Environment Canada (www.ec.gc.ca/scitech)
- Work on Organizational structure and functions within intermediary organizations, and consortium approach by Canadian Water Network (www.cwn-rce.ca)