



# CAZALAC

Water Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones in Latin America and the Caribbean

Newsletter N°2 April 2003

## PRESENTATION

Dear Friends:

Water resources continue facing huge pressures in arid and semi-arid zones regarding their management, unavoidably affecting local populations and their development chances as well as the ecosystems associated to these territories. This situation is even more severe in arid and semi-arid zones of LAC.

Therefore, the Water Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones in Latin America and the Caribbean was formed to serve the Region countries in several action fronts related to a sustainable water management in territories showing water resources shortage.

To continue with this Center's activities and with the purpose of collaborating in the above mentioned concerns, we have prepared this second newsletter, which addresses several interesting topics regarding our institution's activities and, in general, water resources in arid zones.

Thank you for all the supporting messages received in response to our first newsletter. We insist to invite anyone who wants to collaborate and share this newsletter to forward your contributions and indications, so that it is more interesting for all of us.

We send a close hug from La Serena, Chile, where CAZALAC's home office is located.

Guido Soto  
Executive Director  
CAZALAC

## VIII SEMINAR - CONAPHI – CHILE / 4-6 JUNE, 2003

“Water for the Future: Systems in Danger”

The VII Seminar of the CONAPHI – CHILE will take place in La Serena, Chile on June 4- 6, 2003. The Civil Works Engineering Department of the School of Engineering – University of La Serena has generously made responsible for the event organization. CAZALAC is actively collaborating with this initiative by participating in the organizing commission.



Instructions to enroll and, in the case of exponents, present works are already available, as well as for the attending public, professionals, teachers, students and general public. This time the topic will be: Water for the Future: Systems in Danger. The importance of the status of water resources and long term forecasts will be pointed out.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.oocc.uls.cl/conaphi.htm>

## LATIN AMERICAN COURSE ON WATER RESOURCES AND SOILS

ELAFIS, together with CAZALAC, is planning a course on Water Resources and Soils aimed at theoretical and practical improvement of the LAC Region professionals linked to activities involving water and soils in arid zones. This course will take place in November in La Serena, Chile.



Foreign experts and local specialists will participate in this activity, which is supported by UNESCO and the Government of Flanders. The course will last approximately two weeks (60 hours). Among other issues, the following matters will be developed: soil physics, surface water resources, ground water resources, solute flow, irrigation and drainage, sediment transportation, and water basin management.

The course organization has considered funding 18 scholarships for professionals from the LAC Region, including transportation, materials, lodging and catering.

Additional information on the course program, the issues to be discussed, enrollment, with the requirements and procedures to appoint for a scholarship, will soon be reported in this newsletter and at the Center's web site

## WATER AND DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION FOR ARID LANDS (WADI)

UNESCO, through its International Water Resources Program (PHI) has decided to form a global information network on water resources in arid zones. CAZALAC has been invited to participate in a central coordinating team, which will be composed of the main international centers in order to establish objectives, an action framework and an activity program for this network. The first task coordinating meeting was held at UNESCO's home office in Paris on April 14 and 15. The Water Center attended this meeting, where the technical and scientific basis for the network start-up was formulated. An electronic site containing the main scopes of the network and the information to be made available to the global community will soon be implemented.

At first, it is expected that the network will provide information related to water resources, such as:

- State of the art and innovating issues regarding water resources in arid zones.
- Educational and basic knowledge modules related to key hydrologic processes (including several detail levels and complexities for different levels)
- Hydro climate and hydro meteorological forecasts from modeling centers. For example: satellite rainfall database, soil humidity maps, several global data (water level in ground).
- Educational modules for short courses and seminars.
- Implementation of reference systems for water basins and ground water deposits that include data acquisition systems, hydrological processes and appropriate management practices.

## THIRD LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS ON WATER BASIN MANAGEMENT

The Third Latin American Congress on Water Basin Management will be held in Arequipa, Peru on June 9-13, 2003. The institutions in charge of its organization are the National Natural Resources Institute - INRENA - Peru; the Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on Water Basin Management - REDLACH; and the FAO Regional Office for LAC.

The congress general purpose is to offer an opportunity to analyze, assess and exchange technical and scientific information and ideas on concepts and technical aspects by the several actors working in diverse topics related to a sustainable development of water basins.

Additional information at: <http://www.congresocuencas.org.pe>

## ASSESSMENT OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Coquimbo IV Administrative Region, Chile shows a shortage in water availability. The situation has worsened as a result of a progressive increase in the demand for domestic, industrial, tourist and agriculture use and the significant decrease of rainfall – at least 60% - since the beginning of the XX Century.

In this scenario, a discussion on how the resource is currently being used – and on future trends - is an essential need. This analysis must include aspects like efficiency, amount, frequency and quality of use, according to the source and purpose, focussing the activities on the most relevant uses in the Region. Thus, it will be possible to have an input that will allow taking steps to improve the current situation and to better prepare to face future challenges.

Thus, the general objective of this project is basically to investigate and know the effective use of water resources, the current use techniques, development and efficiency of its use and, based on the above, to formulate specific proposals aimed at improving the use of water resources and presenting recommendations that will guide users in their decision making.



It is expected that the following results will be obtained:

- Formulation of methodology applicable to arid or semi-arid zones and diagnosis on the current use of water resources and trends.
- A database on the current use of water resources, research and projects completed.
- A set of recommendations on the effects generated at a water basin scale in relation to the use of water resources in areas of shortage.
- Diffusion and information plan among water users and communities, as well as to the several actors related to the use and management of water resources. This includes diffusion of results, proposals and recommendations obtained from the survey.
- 2-3 projects, at a pre-feasibility stage, to request both national and foreign funding.

## CAZALAC WEB SITE

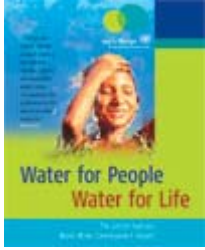
The Water Center Web site will officially be launched on May 01. This is mainly aimed at providing CAZALAC with an electronic window that will make it possible to publish the Center's objectives and activities, exchange information with relevant actors participating in the activities of arid zones and to supplement already published material, to help creating a sound corporate image that is consistent with the corporate mission, both in the LAC Region and worldwide.



We invite you to visit this site as of the above mentioned date and to share any suggestions and concerns with us: <http://www.cazalac.org>

You can find the new e-mail addresses of people working for CAZALAC at the end of this newsletter.

## WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



The United Nations published the report on World Water Resources Development in March, 2003 entitled Water for People, Water for Life. This document addresses, among other relevant issues, the current status of world water resources and undoubtedly represents an outstanding document on water related topics.

The main aspects addressed are:

- Current status of water resources (water global crisis).
- World Fresh Water Resources
- Challenges regarding life and welfare
- Management challenges
- Examples of pilot surveys completed to date.

The executive summary of this document (pdf format) can be downloaded from the WWAP web site [http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/ex\\_summary/index.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/ex_summary/index.shtml)

## DATABASE OF INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCHERS WORKING IN THE LAC ARID ZONES

To implement the initiative of creating a regional database of Institutions, Researchers and Specialized Professionals on water resources in arid zones, we have started to request and compile the relevant information from all those who want to collaborate with this project.

Thus, the record forms for institutions, researchers and professionals related to investigation and management of water resources in arid and semi-arid zones in LAC are already available in the Water Center web site.

We invite you to make use of this e-forms and complete them with as many details as possible.

Researchers' form: [http://www.cazalac.org/formularios/formulario\\_investigadores.htm](http://www.cazalac.org/formularios/formulario_investigadores.htm)

Institutions' form: [http://www.cazalac.org/formularios/formulario\\_instituciones.htm](http://www.cazalac.org/formularios/formulario_instituciones.htm)

Newsletter N°2 – April 2003

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Other issues of this newsletter:

Newsletter N°1: <http://www.cazalac.org/boletines/newsletter01march2003.pdf>

Newsletter N°2: <http://www.cazalac.org/boletines/newsletter02april2003.pdf>