

3 Keys to Data for All

World Water Forum-5 Istanbul, March 20, 2009

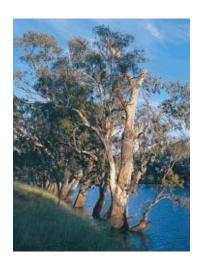






Overview

- 1. What does GEMS/Water do?
- 2. 3 keys to data access
- 3. Plans for the future

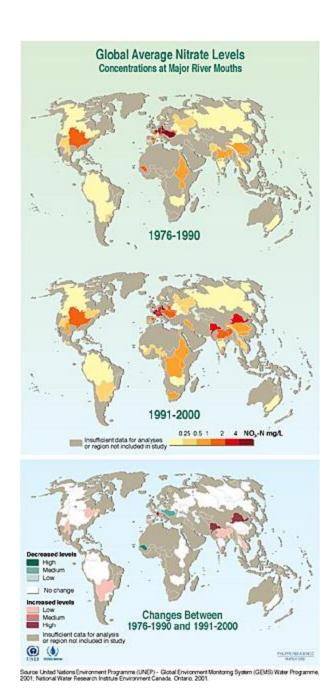




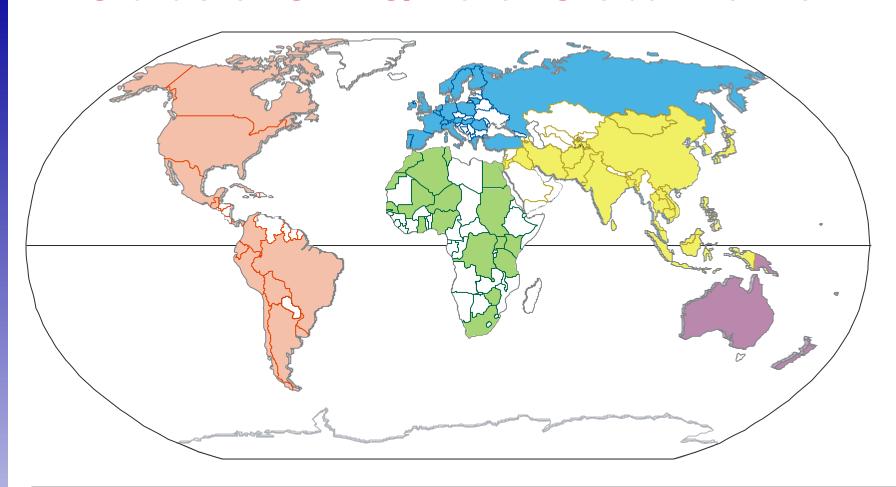


4 Core Activities

- Expanding GEMStat, the global inland water quality database and international network.
- 2. Undertaking research, indicator development, and modelling for global environmental **assessment** processes.
- 3. Promoting data integrity (QA/QC) tools and resources.
- 4. Building the **capacity** of developing countries to collect and manage water quality information.

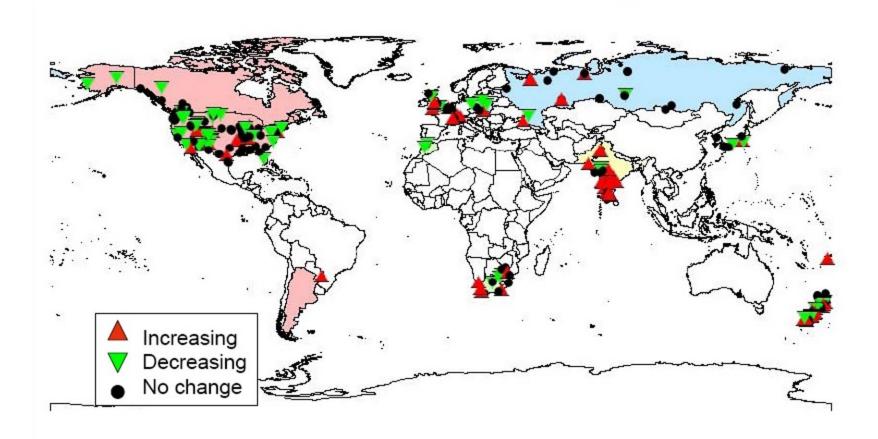


Status of GEMS/Water Global Network



Region	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	Totals
# of Stations	285	2051	441	343	95	3215
# of Values	276428	1742281	684455	943631	355061	4001856
Date Range	1977-2008	1965-2006	1971-2008	1978-2007	1979-2008	1965-2008

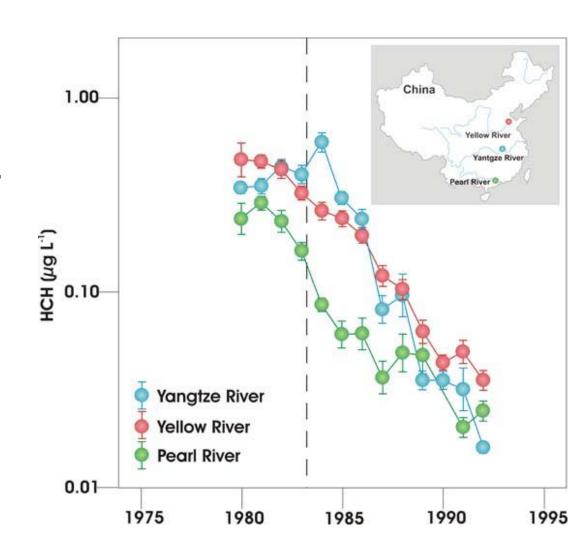
Snap Shot of Global Nitrogen Data



Note the decreases in many parts of the world, likely due to effective policy responses. A comprehensive global assessment would benefit since N affects drinking water, fisheries, and agriculture.

Declining Pesticides

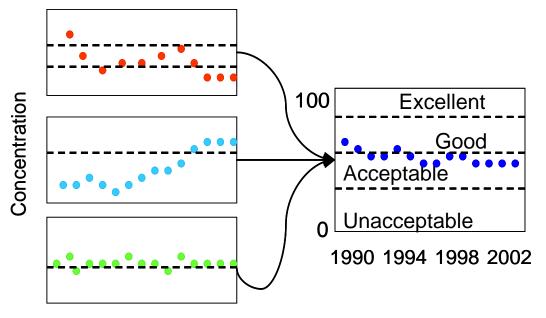
Three Chinese rivers following implementation of a ban on HCH use.



Index Calculation

Important WQ variables compared to appropriate guidelines; results combined to produce a single number categorizing WQ as excellent, good, fair, marginal, poor.

WQ Index =
$$100 - \sqrt{(F_1^2 + F_2^2 + F_3^2)}$$



Where:

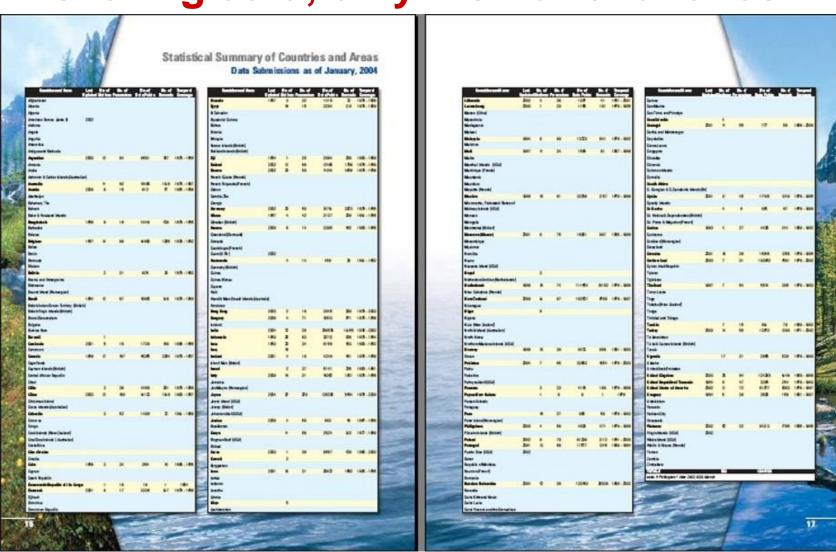
F1 = percentage of failed variables (scope)

F2 = percentage of failed tests (frequency)

F3 = amount by which failed tests exceed guidelines (magnitude)

1990 1994 1998 2002

There are no technical barriers to sharing data, only institutional ones



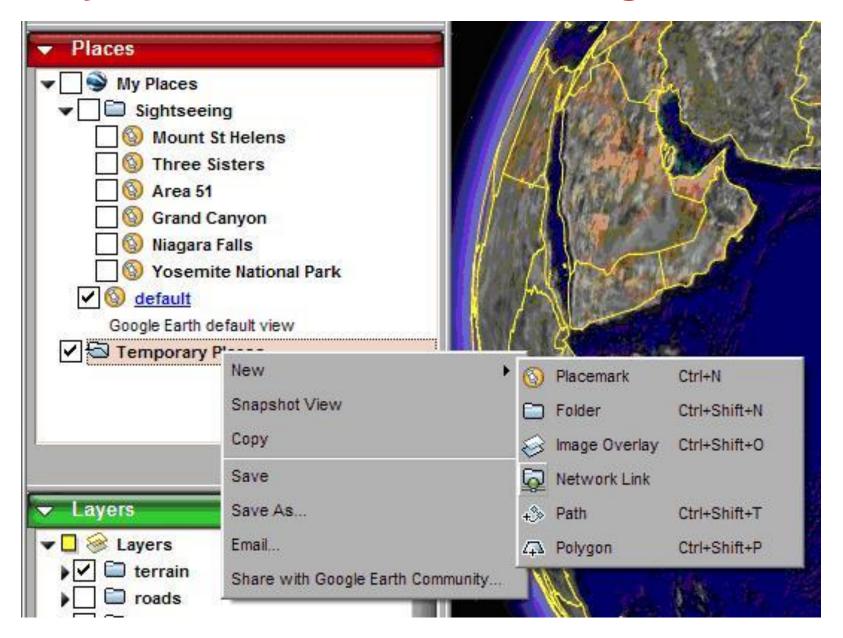
Key #1 – Discoverability – Publish Data on the Internet

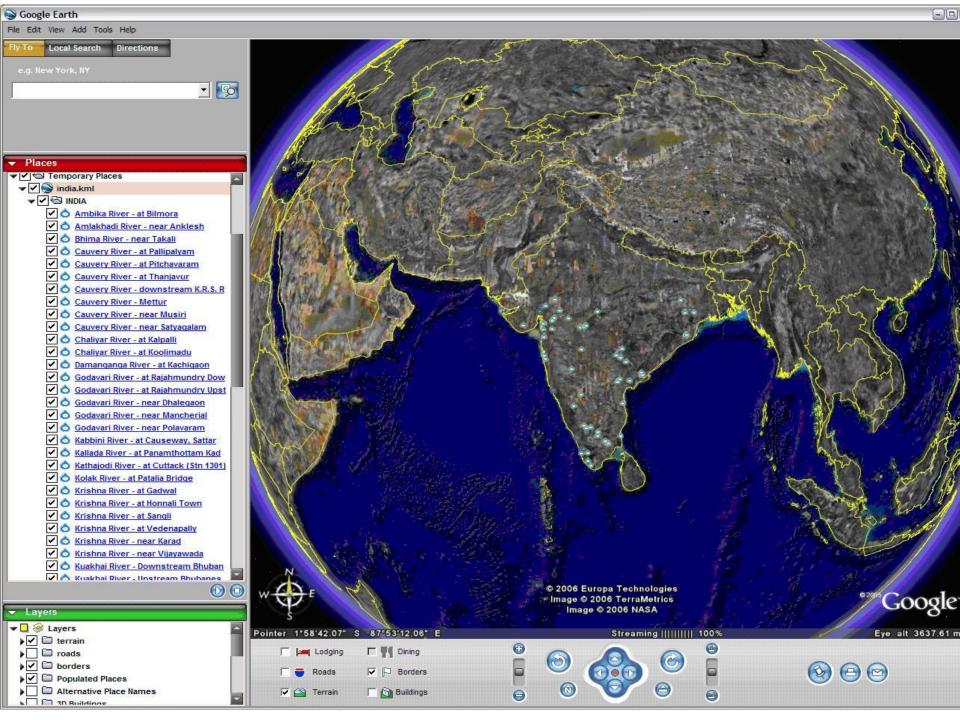


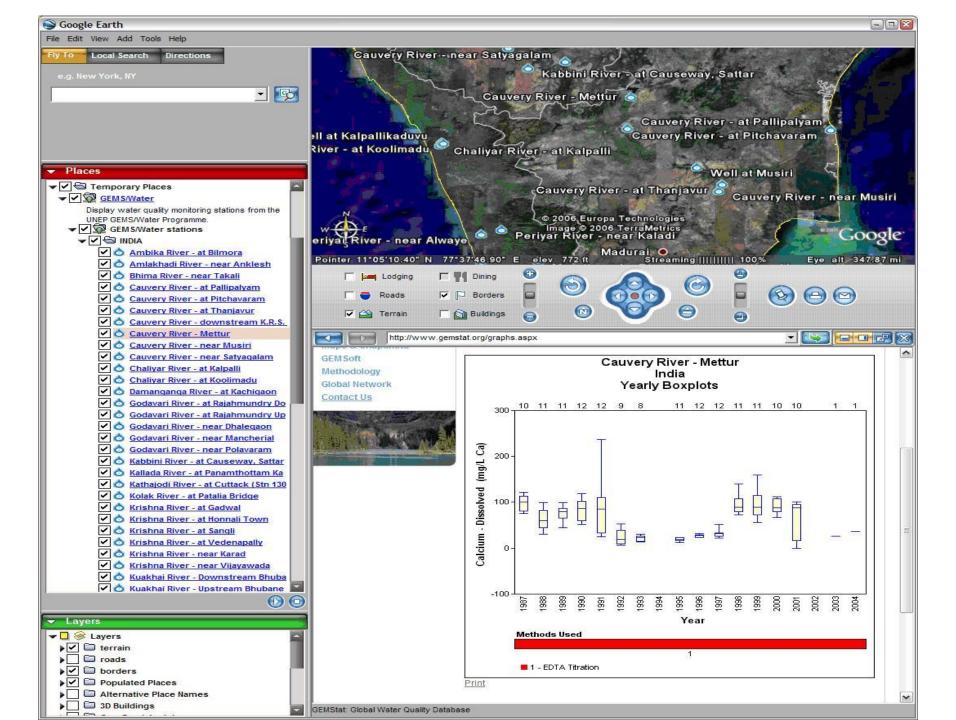
Benefits from Being Discoverable

- More people have access
- Data have value when they are used;
 more use means more value
- Broader scope for assessments
- Water authorities can view their situation in a wider context – local to global

Key #2 – Visualization – Google Earth







Benefits from Vizualization

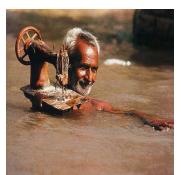
- See and fix bugs
- Better and faster assessments
- Better and faster decision-making



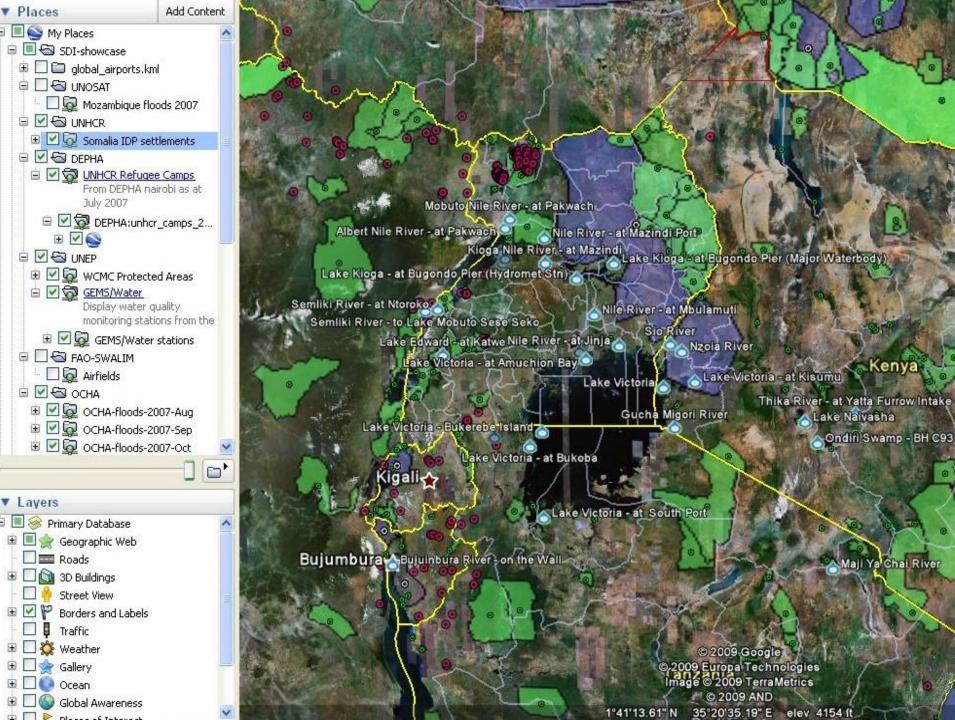
Key #3 – Interoperability

- GEMStat can "talk" to other online databases
- Built using open standards and open web services
- Result is flexibility to identify and fit services that fit particular needs
- One example is SDI-East Africa









Plans for the Future

- Continue to fill gaps
- Integrate GEMStat with THREATS – decision-support software
- GEMSoft for data input
- Broader visualization and analysis – GIS, modelling







UNEP GEMS/Water Programme

