

# Healthy river basins

## FOUNDING MEMBERS



# Healthy river basins

River basin systems are complex. Not only biophysically and spatially, but also because they sit in intricate social systems with diverse stakeholder values, perspectives, needs and cultures.

These systems face increasing pressure from population growth and resource demands, and yet often there is a lack of political and community understanding of the value and service that clean water and healthy river systems provide.

At the International WaterCentre (IWC) we provide expert services to clients from across the globe in the areas of education and training, applied research and knowledge services to promote sustainable and healthy river basins.

## About IWC

The International WaterCentre is dedicated to promoting an integrated whole-of-water cycle approach and developing capacity in integrated water management around the world.

Founded by four leading universities, with over 70 international networks, we provide a breadth of experience rarely found in a single organisation.

By bringing together the best academics and practitioners from a range of disciplines we can offer specialised project services as well as customised education and training programs.

Our key focus areas include:

- healthy river basins
- sustainable urban communities
- water, sanitation and hygiene.

## Integrated approach

At IWC we consider the social, environmental and economic impacts of water-related decisions by integrating community, scientific, engineering, economic, legal, health and political perspectives.

We draw practitioners from Australia's leading water research institutes – including the Australian Rivers Institute at Griffith, the Natural Resources Centre of Excellence at UWA, and UQ's Water Initiative – to design solutions to current and future water management challenges.

We focus on three intricately related areas – education and training, applied research and knowledge sharing services – to promote best practice in integrated water management.

# Our river health services

## Education and training

Through our high-quality capacity development programs we equip water practitioners around the world with the skills to address complex river management challenges and develop integrated solutions.

Since 2008, IWC has welcomed over 700 participants in its education and training programs.

- **Master of Integrated Water Management** – incorporating the scientific underpinnings of integrated river basin management, river and catchment ecology and river restoration
- **Graduate Certificate in Water Planning** – providing water resource and river basin managers with advanced skills and capabilities in water governance, collaboration and planning
- **Custom-designed training programs** – focusing on river basin management, planning, monitoring and assessment, and restoration, and suitable for local and international clients seeking to address specific training needs in their organisations.

We have provided custom-designed training for more than 160 river managers from nations including the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

## Applied research

IWC offers expert services across the spectrum of integrated river basin management challenges to clients around the globe, including:

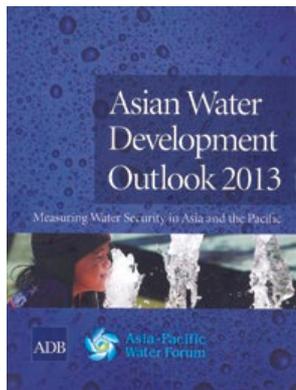
- **tools** for carrying out evidence-based policy, planning and regulation, underpinned by science, collaboration and participatory processes
- **monitoring and evaluation frameworks** for river health, to inform policy and planning processes
- **river health management strategies** to support development and implementation of long-term sustainable solutions to water resource protection issues
- **community participation frameworks** to ensure solutions are relevant and 'owned' by project stakeholders.

## Knowledge sharing

IWC hosts a range of **activities to support knowledge sharing** of best practices in river health management.



# Our portfolio and achievements



## Asian Water Development Outlook 2013

The second edition of the Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) focuses on critical water issues providing world financial and planning leaders with recommended policy actions to increase a nation's water security. IWC was the lead author of two chapters, including Key Dimension 4: Environmental Water Security.

### Testimonial:

*'The study highlights two stark realities – sharply rising inequality in access to water and sanitation, and the increasingly precarious state of rivers. It presents options to improve water security to mitigate the growing pressure from booming populations, urbanisation, pollution, over-extraction of groundwater, climate change and other factors.'*

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, 2013

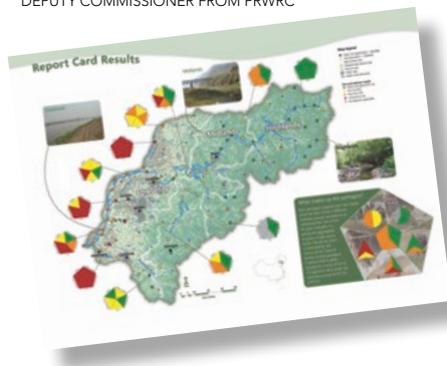
## River health and environmental flows in China

IWC managed this project – the largest under the Australian Aid funded Australia-China Environment Development Partnership – in conjunction with the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Environmental Protection. The project aimed to establish methods for assessing and improving river health and environmental flows in Chinese rivers. IWC specialists conducted detailed river health and environmental flow assessments in three pilot rivers. This work was used to identify a recommended environmental flow regime and prepare a river health report card for each river. The results informed national recommendations, including draft guidelines for river health assessment and a national environmental flows framework.

### Testimonial:

*'The Gui River health report card is the most comprehensive and effective tool for measuring river health that we have ever applied. Because it is simple and visual, it's not only useful to us – it's also great for communicating with the public about river health.'*

CUI WEIZHONG,  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FROM PRWRC



## Hydro-ecological relationships and thresholds project

IWC developed this project in South East Queensland to analyse the response of riverine assets to flows that have been altered as a result of infrastructure development such as dams. The project helped establish a hydrologic classification framework for local rivers to assist in maximising environmental flows. The research applied elements of the internationally developed Ecological Limits of Hydrologic Alteration (ELOHA) framework. The outcomes from the project provide practical advice and guidance for water managers and planners and support adaptive environmental water management practices.

### Testimonial:

*'This project provides important new understanding and science to inform the development of regional environmental flow guidelines and water resource plans across Australia.'*

*The Waterlines Report provides water planners and policy makers around Australia with a wide range of recommendations for undertaking environmental flow assessments.*

NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION

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