

# Preface

Globally, people are becoming increasingly aware of the degradation of the world's water bodies. The need for a holistic assessment of transboundary waters in order to respond to growing public concern and provide advice to governments and decision makers regarding management of aquatic resources has been recognised by several international bodies focusing on global environment. To compile a global overview, the Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) has been implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in conjunction with the University of Kalmar, Sweden ([www.giwa.net](http://www.giwa.net)).

The importance of the GIWA has been underpinned by the UN Millennium Development Goals adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000 and the Declaration from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The development goals aim to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by the year 2015. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation encourages the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach, and stresses the importance of maintaining productivity and biodiversity of marine and coastal areas, including protection of the marine environment from the impacts of land-based activities

This report presents the results of the GIWA assessment of Faroe Plateau, GIWA region 13. The report is the Faroe contribution to GIWA and it is funded by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency as part of the environmental support programme DANCEA – Danish Cooperation for Environment in the Arctic.

The report is based on the GIWA Methodology: "STAGE 1: Scaling and Scoping" and "Causal chain analyses" (see [www.giwa.net](http://www.giwa.net)).

The task team meeting was held 8 October 2003 at Fiskirannsóknarstovan (Fisheries Research Laboratory) in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands.

A number of selected experts participated in the task team meeting. Other selected experts were unable to attend to the meeting. The experts consulted for input and reviews of this report are presented in Annex 1. Jákup P. Joensen from the Food, Veterinary and Environmental Agency of the Faroe Islands was coordinator for the editorial process. The report was peer-reviewed by Dr. Henrik Sparholt and Dr. Raphael V. Vartanov.

The report has been compiled and edited by:

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