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BASSIN DES GRANDS LACS

SAINT-LAURENT - GOLFE



What is a Blue Passport?

The Blue Passport is an official acknowledgement of citizen participation in water protection, use, conservation and management. It promotes citizens who take action – individually or collectively – for water at local level throughout the watershed.

Why to own a Blue Passport? Its added value

To confirm your status as a Basiner¹ who lives in the hydrographical ecosystem that is the basin.

To emphasize that identities are shaped by more than administrative and national boundaries.

To have the privilege of being part and playing an active role in citizen initiative networks in the water sector.

To gain legitimacy to better influence administrative and political decisions about the quality of your living environment.

To collect visas indicating water actions taken by Blue Passport holders.

A short history of the Blue Passport

With the aim to prepare "2013, International Year of Water Cooperation", the Blue Passport concept was introduced in March 2012, at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille, as part of the World Youth Parliament for Water, the Citizens' House for Water and during the signing ceremony for the World Pact for Better Basin Management. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, President of INBO, chaired this ceremony.

How to obtain a Blue Passport?

All Basiners can apply. Applicants must have been involved in one or more local water-related actions or have advocated for it. Applicants shall demonstrate their commitments for water. One witness shall attest this involvement.

Applicants must fill a form available either on line at www.sie-isw. org/passeport, from river basin organisation involved or as part of international event related to water management.

Applicants must follow the rights and responsibilities toward their hydrographical basin of residence.

Applicants must contribute to the cost of the Blue Passport.

Main steps

In Geneva, february 2013, presentation of the Blue Passport in the frame of the "Eau Post 2015" Consultation.

In the Hague, March 22nd, 2013, in the frame of the World Water Day, official delivery of first Blue Passports.

In May/June 2013 the Organisation for the Enhancement of the Senegal River (OMVS, by the acronyms in French) was the first transboundary river basin organisation that gets engaged in promoting the "Basin's citizenship".

Finally, the Blue Passport final concept will be promoted by the participants at the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) General Assembly, that will take place in Fortaleza, Brazil.

The Blue Passport is an initiative of the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) in collaboration with the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) and institutions involved locally and interested in the dissemination of the awareness tool.

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¹ Resident of a river basin, an area of land where waters (rain, streams, lakes, rivers, etc) converges to a