Associated Programme on Flood Management

Programme Objectives and Achievements

APFM works for You!

What is Integrated Flood Management?
Integrated Flood Management (IFM) integrates land use and water resources management in river basins under the framework of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The major principle of IFM aims at maximizing the net benefits from floodplains and minimizing the loss of life and property from flooding. IFM is different from conventional flood management as it is shifting focus from flood control to flood management, which provides for the concept of integrated management of both flood risk and living with floods.

Objective of APFM:
Promote the principles of Integrated Flood Management world-wide and support countries to implement IFM in the field

Origin of APFM and its support base
The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) was launched in 2001 as a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP). APFM is housed in WMO’s Climate and Water Department to meet the needs of 189 Member States and Territories regarding flood management issues. Over the course of the Programme, APFM has been financially supported by the Governments of Japan, The Netherlands, and Switzerland. Projects and training activities are also supported by other countries and donor agencies, for example, in-kind contribution of personnel to the Programme has been granted by the Governments of Italy and Germany; USAID has pledged funds for the conduct of demonstration projects. Donors can contribute to international cooperation in flood management efficiently through WMO’s world-wide network.
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Areas of services and support for flood managers are demonstrated below.

Expertise and resources for technical support
A wide variety of technical documents on Integrated Flood Management, from basic concept to practical application, have been developed in close cooperation with international experts. The publications are in English language for the purpose of wider dissemination; however some are translated into different languages including French, Spanish, Japanese, Russian, etc.

Flood Management Policy Series (6 publications) consists of a set of advocacy publications to promote the general concept of Integrated Flood Management under four different aspects including:
• Legal & Institutional,
• Social,
• Environmental, and
• Economic Aspects.

Integrated Flood Management Tool Series (12 publications) contains guidance materials for flood management practitioners to cope with specific flood issues such as flood risk, urban flood, climate change, to name a few. These tools are considered to be “living documents” that are periodically reviewed. The tool series is constantly expanding.

Other publications include training materials on Urban Flood Management which aim to present a comprehensive view of urban flood management including flash floods, urban drainage and river flooding in cities. For educational purposes, APFM in cooperation with Project WET developed the KIDs Activity Booklet and Educators Guide, “Discover Floods” to help children easily understand the risk of flood and the necessity of preparation against flood disasters.
Implementation of pilot projects

Different types of pilot projects were implemented in cooperation with national and local organizations in eight countries, such as development of national flood management strategies in Africa, community flood management in Asia, and flash flood management in Eastern Europe. APFM significantly contributed to the projects with its technical expertise, and in facilitating coordination with stakeholders and donor agencies.

Example: Integrated Flood Management Project in Kenya

The Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development, Kenya requested WMO to help develop a flood management strategy. APFM in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) coordinated with Kenyan Ministries and formulated the Strategy for Flood Management for Lake Victoria Basin. Following the Strategy, APFM and JICA jointly organized several training workshops to implement IFM in the field.

Support of capacity building

APFM has created and carried out a comprehensive training curriculum on flood management with its original materials and case studies. For the past 4 years, APFM conducted 31 training workshops in various countries and established a network of approximately 700 alumni and participants covering Asia, Africa, South America, and Europe.
IFM HelpDesk provides the interface to users
The IFM HelpDesk is the main platform that provides guidance on flood management policy, strategy, and institutional development related to flood issues to countries that want to adopt the IFM concept. It helps users finding flood management solutions by themselves using various databases on literature, policy & law and institutions compiled in the Help Yourself function, or by sending requests for technical support through the Get Help function.

The HelpDesk is supported not only by WMO but also through in-kind contributions of over 30 Support Base Partners (SBPs), which include public and private organizations, research institutes, academics, etc.

APFM Newsletter is issued once every 4 months to introduce selected APFM activities, such as the results of training, announcement of new publications, etc. A total of 1,400 readers including training alumni subscribe to the Newsletter regularly.

The way forward
APFM strives to further strengthen programme activities to apply IFM principles in the field as well as influence national flood management strategies. In closer cooperation with donors and private sectors, APFM will effectively reach out to flood management users and meet their demands.

Within APFM’s mid-term strategy, planned activities include:
• Improve and expand comprehensive technical documents and training materials,
• Advise countries to formulate better Integrated Flood Management policies and practices,
• Provide technical support for field demonstration projects and capacity building,
• Expand cooperation with technical support partners and knowledge networks in countries and regions, and
• Facilitate joint activities and networking like-minded organizations in Integrated Flood Management.

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