

# Managing Transboundary Floods

## For

### ...minimizing loss of life from flooding

Transboundary cooperation in flood management can vitally contribute to minimizing human loss of life from flooding that continues to cause misery across river basins. Various measures are available to be developed and implemented on a transboundary basis to work towards minimizing loss of life from flooding.

### ...maximizing the net benefits from floodplains

Globally, both land, particularly arable land, and water resources are scarce. Most productive arable land is located on floodplains and in turn this has contributed not only to the very high densities of human settlement on floodplains but also to steadily increasing economic losses due to flooding. When implementing basin-wide policies to maximize the efficient use of the resources of the river basin as a whole, efforts should be made to maintain or augment the productivity of floodplains. The term "net benefits" refers to a holistic appraisal of flood impacts and as such expresses, on the one hand, the balance between the benefits derived from floodplains for development and the environment, and on the other, the socio-economic losses and losses of environmental assets due to flooding.

### ...preventing and mitigating potential conflict on issues relating to transboundary floods

Floods are not bound by national or administrative boundaries. Thus their impacts in many of the world's transboundary basins are felt across several basin States, especially during extreme floods. In addition flood protection and development activities in one part of the basin have potential effects on flood risk elsewhere, both upstream and downstream. As such, floods bear conflict potential and in turn should be recognized to hold vast potential to cooperate with co-basin States in flood management.

## Through

- Joint planning in land and water resources management
- Coordinated flood management action
- Data exchange and early warning systems
- Sharing benefits of floodplains and associated ecosystems
- Sharing burdens from flooding
- Notification and dispute resolution procedures
- Making floods part of the river basin's development agenda and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans

## Some references and tools

- WMO and GWP: Integrated Flood Management–Concept Paper, Flood Management Policy Series, and Rapid Legal Assessment Tool for Flood Management
- UNECE: 1992 Water Convention and its Protocols on Water and Health and on Civil Liability, Flood Management Guidelines, and Model Provisions for Transboundary Flood Management
- European Union: Upcoming Directive on the Assessment and Management of Floods, European Flood Alert System, Best Practice Document on Flood Prevention, Protection and Mitigation
- UNESCO-IHP: From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential (PCCP): Water for Peace
- Various existing flood action plans (e.g. in the Rhine or Danube Basins)



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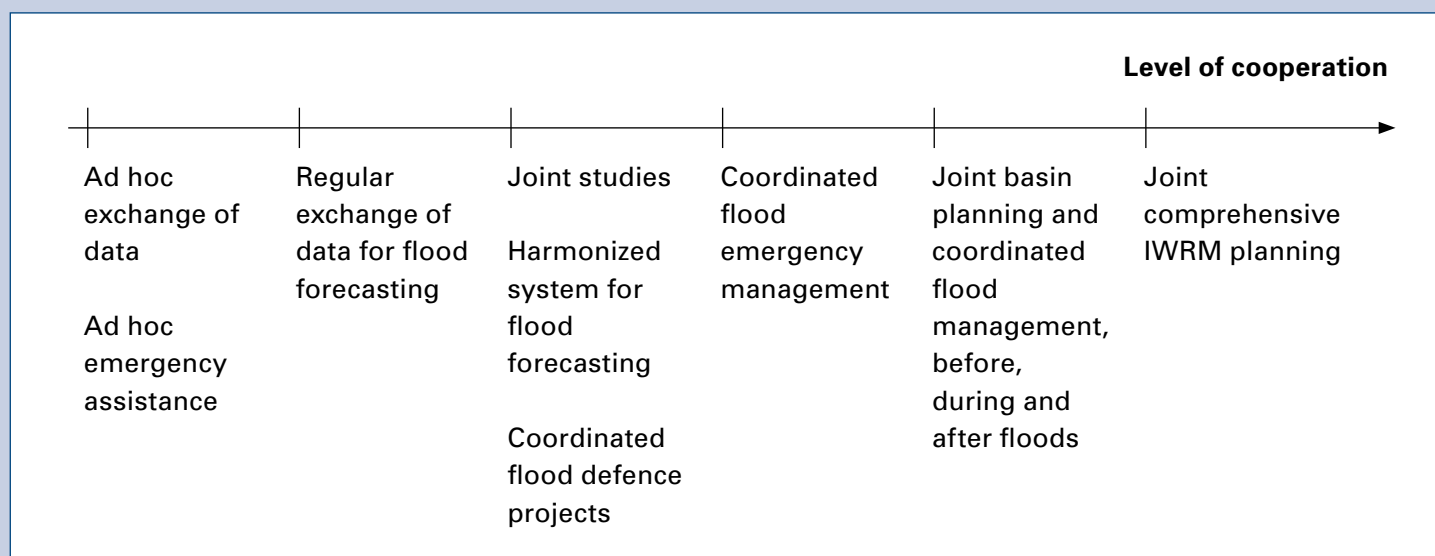


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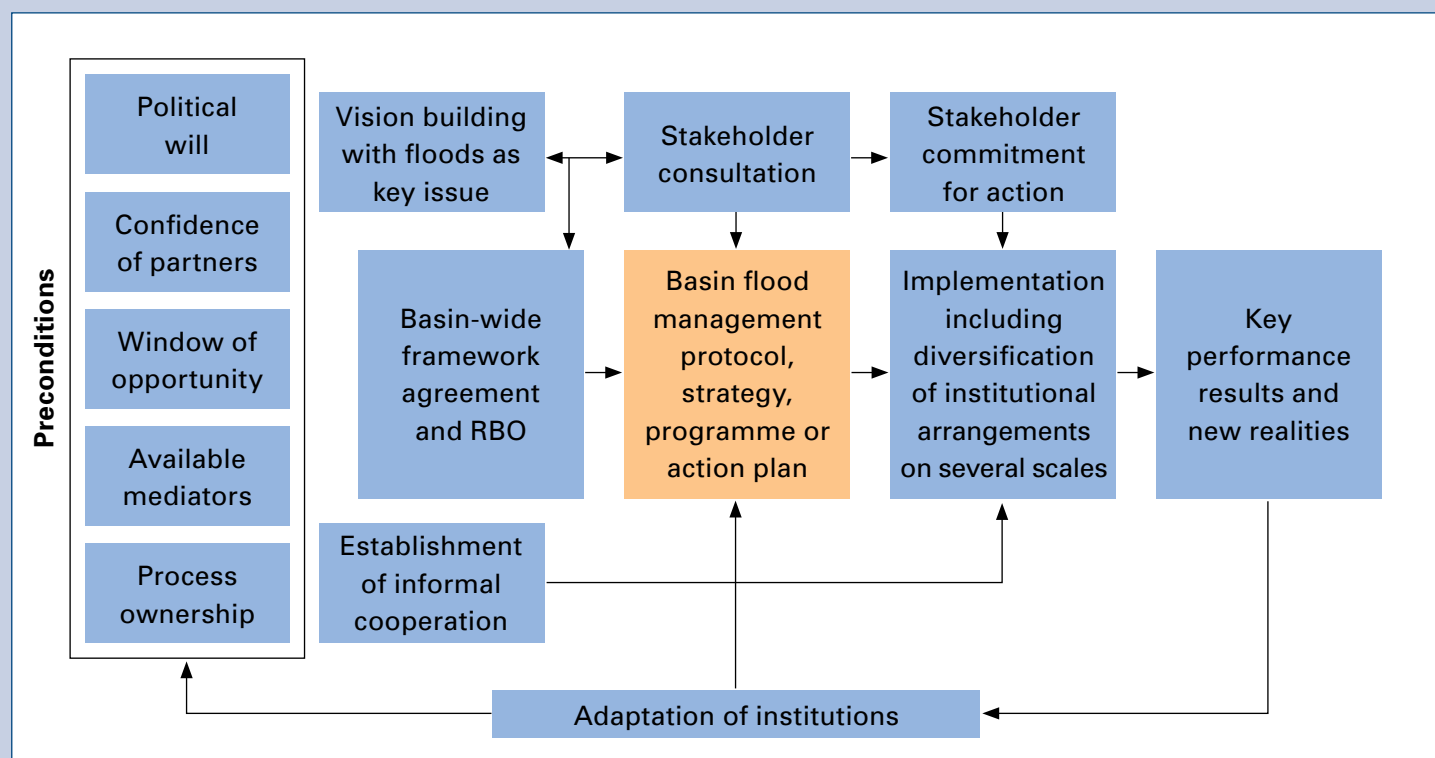
Prepared by the WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management with inputs from the UNECE Water Convention's Task Force on Floods.

# Food for thought

## The Flood Management Cooperation Continuum <sup>1</sup>



## The Flood Management Cooperation Process Model <sup>2</sup>



### For further information and comments:

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<sup>1</sup> Source: WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management inspired by an earlier work of Jerome Delli Priscoli under UNESCAP, 2001

<sup>2</sup> Source: WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management inspired by earlier work under the UNECE International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)