



WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)



June 2002

The Inception Phase of the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) drew to a close at the end of March 2002. Its four-year Implementation Phase has just commenced.

A number of activities were carried out during the Inception Phase to create the groundwork for the future. Among these were: the identification of different types of partners who could collaborate proactively in programme activities; establishment of a contact database of institutions involved in flood management throughout the world; consolidation of a Steering Committee; creation of an APFM web page; launch of a Virtual Conference; and the formulation of a future plan of action.

Focus

The APFM promotes the concept of Integrated Flood Management (IFM). The term refers to 'flood management within a context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)'. The Global Water Partnership (GWP), one of the co-implementors of the APFM, defines IWRM as *a process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital eco-systems.*

Work carried out during the inception phase

1) Contact database

A questionnaire to obtain information on the roles of different institutions in the field of flood management was sent to numerous organizations throughout the world using the channels of WMO, UNESCO, ISDR, and GWP. Many of these questionnaires were duly completed and returned to the APFM's Technical Support Using (TSU). A database was created to enter the information thus collected. To date, there are 184 institutions entered in the database.

2) First Coordination Meeting (November, 2001)

Plans for regional flood mitigation projects were discussed and reviewed at the meeting which was attended by four regional bodies - representing Central America, South America, Southern Africa and South Asia - of the GWP.

3) First Consultative Committee Meeting (February, 2002)

Representatives from ISDR, UNESCO, the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP), and the Flood Hazard Research Centre (FHRC) attended the meeting. All four organizations were identified as potential partners of the APFM - albeit with varying degrees of involvement. The concept and the definition of Integrated Flood Management was discussed at length at the meeting.

4) First Steering Committee Meeting (March, 2002)

The Steering Committee reviewed the activities carried out during the Inception Phase. The Committee endorsed the future work plan and thus gave approval for the APFM to launch its Implementation Phase as of 1 April 2002.

5) Virtual Conference

The first session of the APFM's virtual conference - titled *'Floods: a curse of a blessing - or both?'* - was convened from March to April 2002 through the web page of the 3rd World Water Forum (WWF3). The concept of Integrated Flood Management (IFM) was presented at the session and participants were invited to comment on its applicability. Challenges that would need to be overcome if IFM is to be put into practice were also presented. The objective of the second session of the conference, scheduled for September 2002, is to identify and present actual cases where IFM has been applied.

Work planned for the Implementation Phase

1) Case studies on flood management

The APFM plans to commission a number of case studies on flood management. The main objective of this exercise is to identify lessons learned and good practices in flood management. The case studies will also serve to identify instances in which the core principles of IFM may already have been applied to varying extents. Some groundwork has already been carried out by the TSU in the form of a literature survey.

2) Pilot projects

A series of pilot projects will be undertaken to test and refine the means by which IFM can be applied in practice. These pilot projects will serve as the means to obtain the experience and information needed to draw up detailed plans for major projects in the regions.

3) Participation at the WWF3

The APFM will organize an event promoting IFM at the WWF3. It is also expected to play a lead role in coordinating the various flood initiatives planned for the WWF3.

To share your experiences in flood management, and to obtain further information, contact:

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