

WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)



The APFM promotes the concept of Integrated Flood Management (IFM). IFM integrates land and water resources development in a river basin, within the context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), with a view to maximizing the efficient use of floodplains and minimizing loss to life.

Topics

- **Integrated Flood Management for Nyando River Basin: Partners consultation**
- **International Conference on Water and Flood Management (ICWFM-2007) Dhaka, Bangladesh**
- **Workshop in Seychelles**
- **Collaboration with the Institute for River and Coastal Engineering at TUHH (Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg)**
- **APFM and Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) join hands to bring the knowledge on floods to educators and school children**
- **Sponsorship opportunity for flood managers to attend the 4th International Symposium on Flood Defence (ISFD4)**
- **Research and Action Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction**
- **Announcement of New publications (Translations in French and Spanish)**

Integrated Flood Management for Nyando River Basin: Partners consultation

WMO assisted Kenyan Ministry of Water and Irrigation to develop a Flood Management Strategy in the Lake Victoria basin as a pilot project under APFM. The Strategy prepared in collaboration with Kenyan experts and in consultation with various national stakeholders, Ministries, and Departments has been adopted by the government to ensure sustainability of development in the flood prone areas in the Lake Victoria Basin. WMO and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, World Bank and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized in August 2006 a national workshop to launch the JICA Study on the Integrated Flood Management for Nyando River Basin. In order to discuss the progress report and to agree on follow up actions, WMO organized a meeting on 22-23 January 2007 in Geneva, at WMO Headquarters.



The meeting was attended by Eng. Mahboub M. Maalim, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Kenya and representatives from JICA and UNEP. The Leader of JICA Study Team, Mr. Ishiwatari underlined that JICA Study in Kenya is focusing on an appropriate mix of soft and hard approaches that include appropriate empowerment of communities in taking immediate actions such as evacuation and rescue.

Eng Mahboub expressed satisfaction with WMO's technical support and the coordination role among partners. He also appreciated WMO initiative to establish a HelpDesk to provide technical advice and information to the countries in need. He highlighted the importance of the JICA study as a way forward to implement the Strategy.

It was pointed out that imbalanced flood management approaches, i.e. either relying too much on structural measures or, vice-versa, too much on non-structural measures, are to the detriment of the system's functioning. Water forum involving water user's association in the region provide one of the opportunities to discuss this issue. Some proposed projects by JICA Study will be implemented by Government of Kenya from its internal resources others would require external resources such those from African Water Facility (AWF), African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), World Bank and Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Clear identification of responsibilities of various institutions involved in flood management was considered crucial. It was recommended that long term management planning of floods should be undertaken for the basin as a whole and supervised by specialized agency responsible for flood management while the emergency response should be coordinated by disaster management authority. Flood forecasting and warning should be managed by the field offices, while overall coordination among concerned ministries and agencies should be done by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

APFM will also provide inputs to the JICA training programme for the topic of Integrated Flood Management (IFM) and facilitate the overall understanding of the concept by the central and regional officers in Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA) and Lake Victoria South Water Services Board (LVSWSB) who are responsible for planning and implementation of flood management in the region.

International Conference on Water and Flood Management (ICWFM-2007) Dhaka, Bangladesh

APFM participated in the International Conference on Water and Flood Management, which was held from 12 to 14 March 2007 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference focused on the integrated approach to water and flood management addressing various challenges such as increasing trends in population, water demand, food demand, energy demand, urbanization, industrial production and economic growth in the flood prone areas. The decision making process requires interaction with multiple users, competing needs, uncertainty due to climate variability and cross-sectoral implications due to the interdependence of land, water, ecosystems and socioeconomic developments. The purpose of this conference was to discuss these issues and advance knowledge on water and flood management.

APFM made presentation on "Integrated Flood Management for enhancing resilience of society toward socio-economic development", which focuses on social aspects of IFM and how flood risks are dealt with under

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given condition. Risk management principles can be better adopted by involving all stakeholders and providing them appropriate institutional framework for IFM. The pilot project in Bangladesh, which was undertaken earlier by APFM, was also introduced to present the effectiveness of community approach to flood management.

Workshop in Seychelles

Flooding poses great challenges to the national economy of the Seychelles. There is a growing concern that the frequency and severity of flood disasters are increasing which are likely to hamper important economic activities such as tourism in the country. The Seychelles Ministry of Environment is in the process of establishing a "Drainage Unit" with key responsibilities for flood management. The problems associated with flooding in short, steep and flashy rivers, although largely confined to the narrow coastal areas, have to be addressed through an integrated approach. There is need to establish a national level coordination mechanism in order to address flood risks issues into the overall development policy.

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Seychelles Government approached the APFM Technical Support Unit for assistance in dealing with the flood management tasks assigned to the Ministry. The Ministry is responsible for the coordination, implementation and oversight of all drainage management and flood issues, policies and projects nationally. APFM guided and supported a flood management workshop on the Seychelles in April 2007, which involved representatives of all relevant Ministries and Departments, including the Director General, Land Transport Division and Chairman of Drainage Task Force, representatives of the Department of Risk and Disaster Management, and the Seychelles Meteorological Services.

In choosing an optimal mix of structural and non-structural flood management measures such approach is based on the needs and abilities of all stakeholders as well as the status of fragile ecosystems, their services to the islands' society such as freshwater provision and the way those ecosystems are affected by floods. The Technical Support Unit (TSU) is now working with Drainage Unit to develop capacity in the country to address the issue in an integrated manner.

Collaboration with the Institute for River and Coastal Engineering at TUHH (Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg)

At recent meetings between WMO and TUHH, a portfolio of collaborative efforts has been agreed between the partners in the areas of e-learning for integrated flood management, capacity building for flood modelers, and the provision of guidance on flood hazard and risk mapping and other flood management tools. Commencement of activities is foreseen for summer 2007.

APFM and Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) join hands to bring the knowledge on floods to educators and school children

"Project-WET (Water Education for Teachers)" is a US based non-profit water education program and publisher. The program facilitates and promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through the dissemination of classroom-ready teaching aids. A jointly developed proposal between WMO and Project WET foresees the development of a number of educational materials under the working Title "Understanding Floods Education Program for Teachers and Youth". It will be printed and disseminated through Project WET's Education Delivery Network. The first two core elements of the collaborative effort include and "Educator's Guide" targeted at teacher's use and an "Activity Booklet" for children/youth ages 8-12. Targeted publication date is the 5th World Water Forum in Turkey in 2009.

Sponsorship opportunity for flood managers to attend the 4th International Symposium on Flood Defence

The APFM has made available a sponsoring opportunity to enable participants from developing countries to attend the 4th International Symposium on Flood Defence (ISFD4) to be held at Toronto, Canada in May 14-16 2008. The support will provide an opportunity for 5 flood managers to bring to the attention of global audience opportunities, constraints and good practices in flood management in their countries. The support is intended to facilitate discussion at the Symposium about various available flood management options for countries with different socio-economic conditions. For details see <http://www.flood2008.org/flood/financial.html>

Call for Abstracts

Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) invites you to submit abstracts for papers, case study presentations or posters for the 4th International Symposium on Flood Defence. Individuals wishing to participate are invited to prepare an abstract not exceeding 500 words (in English) and state their preferred presentation format. Please visit the conference website <http://www.flood2008.org/> for more information and instructions for submission of abstracts.

Research and Action Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction

The ProVention Consortium has announced the launch of the 2007-2008 Research & Action Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Programme funds innovative projects to reduce disaster risks in developing countries that are proposed and implemented by researchers and practitioners under 35 and guided by experimented mentors. It is designed to engage enthusiastic young students and professionals in creating innovative links between research and action in disaster risk reduction. To date ProVention has provided grants of up to USD 5,000 to 119 projects in 40 developing countries under this scheme. Integrated Flood Management plays a crucial role in disaster risk reduction by aiming at the minimization of losses of life from flooding and by working on issues of floodplain use for livelihood generation and resilience building. The deadline for proposal submissions is 15 July, 2007. For more information and to download the request for proposals, please visit: <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=5>

Announcement of New publications (Translations in French and Spanish)

French and Spanish translations of the Flood Management Policy Series publications following have become available;

- Environmental Aspects of Integrated Flood Management**, "Aspects écologiques de la gestion intégrée des crues", (French), "Aspectos ambientales de la gestión integrada de crecidas"; (Spanish)
- Social Aspects and Stakeholder Involvement in Integrated Flood Management**, "Gestion intégrée des crues: aspects sociaux et participation des parties prenantes" (French), "Aspectos sociales y participación de los interesados en la gestión integrada de crecidas" (Spanish) are now available. Click below to download. <http://www.apfm.info/publications.htm>



For more information:

The Technical Support Unit (TSU)
Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)
c/o Hydrology and Water Resources Department
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
7 bis, avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 730 8479 Fax: +41 22 730 8043
E-mail: apfm@wmo.int
Web page: <http://www.apfm.info>

