

WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)



December 2002

Many activities have been undertaken since June 2002 when the first issue of the APFM newsletter was published.

The collection of case studies on integrated flood management, coordination of flood initiatives planned for the 3rd World Water Forum (WWF3), initiation of two regional pilot projects and the collaboration with organizations active in the field of flood management are some of the activities that have been at the forefront during the past few months.

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)', where IWRM is defined as *a process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital eco-systems.*

Recent activities

1) Case studies on integrated flood management

Guidelines for the preparation of the case studies were drawn up by the APFM's Technical Support Unit (TSU) and sent to persons actively involved in the fields of flood and water management. To date, the TSU has received seven case studies, and a few more are currently under preparation. These case studies will be subjected to a process of evaluation, the purpose of which will be to extract good practices and lessons learned in integrated flood management.

2) Pilot projects

The APFM has been working in close collaboration with GWP's Southern American and South Asian Technical Advisory Committees (SAMTAC and SASTAC respectively) to initiate pilot projects in the regions concerned.

In South America the pilot project is located on the Cuareim/Quaraí river bordering Brazil and Uruguay. The project will seek to implement certain aspects of IFM.

In South Asia, preparatory studies will be carried out in Bangladesh, India and Nepal with a view to developing a pilot project focusing on community approaches to flood management. The studies will be carried out in two flood prone locations in each country.

3) Second Consultative Meeting (November 2002)

Representatives from the Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM), the Parrett Catchment Project (PCP), and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) presented their activities and identified potential areas for collaboration with the APFM. These proposals have now been incorporated in the APFM's activity plan.

4) Study of the floods in Central Europe in 2002

The APFM participated in a study - organized by the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport - of the recent floods that affected Central Europe. The objectives of the study were to identify the causes for the flooding and to gather comprehensive information on current flood management strategies in Germany and the Czech Republic.

5) Collaboration with the Dartmouth Flood Observatory

The TSU organized a visit to the Dartmouth Flood Observatory (DFO) located at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, USA, to study the functions of the observatory and to identify areas for collaboration. It was agreed that the DFO will support the APFM pilot projects by, for example, providing flood maps in GIS format as the projects develop. The APFM, for its part, will include a link to the DFO on its web page and explore the possibility of publishing a flood atlas - in both print and electronic format - in partnership with the DFO.

The 3rd World Water Forum (WWF3)

The 3rd World Water Forum will take place from 16 to 23 March 2003 in Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka, Japan. More than 8000 participants are expected to attend the 360 sessions planned for the Forum.

At present, 13 sessions are planned for the Flood Days scheduled for 18 and 19 March 2003 in Kyoto. The session on Integrated Flood Management (IFM), conducted by the APFM, will be held on 18 March. Salient issues from the flood sessions will be fed to the Ministerial Conference scheduled for 22 and 23 March 2003. We invite you to join us in Kyoto on the Flood Days.

If you would like to register yourself as a participant for the WWF3 write to <registration@water-forum3.com> or follow the relevant link at www.worldwaterforum.org.

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

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World Meteorological Organization



Global Water Partnership

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