



World Meteorological Organization



Global Water Partnership

THE ASSOCIATED PROGRAMME ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Global Coordination



SECOND CONSULTATIVE MEETING

(Geneva, 4-6 November 2002)

REPORT

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WMO Headquarters, Geneva, 4-6 November 2002

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1. Opening

1.1: The meeting was opened at 09h30 on Monday 4 November 2002. It was chaired by Dr Arthur Askew, Head of the Technical Support Unit (TSU) of the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM). The table of contents reflects the agenda of the meeting. The detailed agenda is given in Annex 1. The names and addresses of the participants are recorded in Annex 2.

1.2: The main objectives of the meeting were:

- (a) to finalize and adopt the concept paper on integrated flood management
- (b) to contribute towards developing the study on the 'Economic aspects of integrated flood management'
- (c) to consult institutions already active in various aspects of flood management and identify opportunities for their collaboration with the APFM.

1.3: Invitations to attend the meeting were sent to Mr. John Harding of ISDR, Dr. Jean-Yves Pirot of the Wetlands and Water Resources Programme of IUCN and to Mr. Jens Fugl (member of the APFM Steering Committee). However, they were unable to attend due to time constraints and other commitments.

2. Current status of the APFM

2.1 The meeting briefly reviewed recent developments of the APFM and on-going and future activities. Reference was made to the need for APFM to work with institutions already active in the field of flood management when implementing its regional and global coordination activities.

3. Finalization of the Concept Paper

3.1: Mr. Colin Green presented the revised version of the Concept Paper on 'Flood management in the context of integrated water resources management'. The participants felt that it was a very useful and comprehensive document and made several recommendations to enhance its potential use. Mr Green will incorporate these recommendations into the final version of the Paper that will be ready by the second week of December. The Paper will then be published as an APFM technical document.

3.2: Recommendations for finalizing the paper included:

- (a) Clearly define the meaning of Integrated Flood Management (IFM).
- (b) Include an introductory paragraph briefly describing the goal and main objectives of the APFM and the audience the Paper is intended for.
- (c) Replace references to 'integrated catchment management' with 'integrated water resources management'.
- (d) Emphasize the importance of stakeholder participation in the implementation of IFM. Attention should also be paid to the role of local and scientific knowledge in influencing stakeholder participation.
- (e) Emphasize the need for institutional change if IFM is to be put into practice.

- (f) Elaborate the meaning of "controlling a source of revenue" and, if possible, avoid mentioning it as a prerequisite for the successful uptake of IFM.
- (g) Use the terms "hard" and "soft" when referring to engineering solutions.
- (h) Reorganize the structure of the Paper so that section 12 - 'Public involvement and equity' - follows section 10 - 'Changes in decision making'. Such reorganization would help make the discussion consistent.
- (i) Replace the title 'Uncertainty' - section 13 - with a more catchy title.

3.3: The Concept Paper was intended for use by policy makers, flood managers and water resources managers.

3.4: A concise version of the Paper is also needed if the project is to reach practitioners at the grassroots level. Therefore, it was decided that the IFM Concept Note (see Annex 8 to APFM Report No. 3) would also be widely used.

4 Review of the Economic Study

4.1: Mr Green presented the study on 'The economics of integrated water resource management: flood risk management'. It was well received by the participants who felt that the paper raised important issues that should, if possible, be incorporated in educational and scientific journals for the benefit of water managers and engineers.

4.2: Recommendations for strengthening the study included:

- (a) Describe, with examples, how the use of land and water can be optimized.
- (b) Mention how the benefits of the surplus water source, available during periods of flooding, can be assessed.
- (c) The meaning of the term "externalities" needs to be clarified for the non-specialist.
- (d) Define the application of the term "outcome equity" in the context of flood management
- (e) Provide examples from developing countries wherever possible.
- (f) Simplify the description of benefit cost analysis (BCA) and multi-criteria analysis (MCA) so that their use in project planning can be clearly understood.
- (g) Add the sub-title of "How to assess and balance choices" to the title of the study.

4.3: A simplified version of the study should be prepared and made available on the APFM web page. Attempts should be made to publish it in international literature such as journals and research publications. The techniques of BCA and MCA should be applied when designing the regional pilot projects.

5 Collaboration with partners

5.1: The representatives of the Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM), the Parrett Catchment Project (PCP), and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWP) each described the activities of their programmes that were relevant to the APFM. These are summarized in Annexes 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

5.2: Subsequent to focused group discussions, the following proposals for joint activities between the APFM and the participants were drawn up and categorized as short-term, medium-term and long-term:

Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM)

- (a) ASFPM will submit a case study on flood management by mid-December and participate at the case studies evaluation meeting tentatively scheduled for January 2003. (*Short-term*)
- (b) ASFPM will invite APFM to make a presentation at their Annual Conference scheduled for May 2003. (*Medium-term*)
- (c) ASFPM can provide input to the pilot projects if these are developed in the CATAC region. APFM would be able to cover travel costs and per diem, etc. (*Long-term*)

Parrett Catchment Project (PCP)

- (d) PCP will submit a case study - probably by January 2003 - focusing on stakeholder participation in flood management. (*Short-term*)
- (e) Updates to the case study will be provided as the PCP matures. (*Medium-term*)
- (f) PCP will provide APFM with information on tools for stakeholder participation - e.g. contacts of people with extensive experience on the subject, CDs, etc. (*Short-term*)
- (g) PCP will send the contact information of their European Partners to APFM. (*Short-term*)
- (h) APFM will provide publicity for PCP activities. (*Short, Medium and Long-term*)
- (i) APFM will search for information on practical tools for establishing partnerships and pass it on to PCP. (*Medium and Long-term*)
- (j) APFM will liaise with the Dartmouth Flood Observatory to verify the availability of inundation maps for the Parrett catchment. (*Short-term*)
- (k) APFM will explore possibilities to link the pilot project in Bangladesh with the PCP. (*Medium-term*)
- (l) APFM will put PCP in touch with relevant people at SwissRe regarding the development of a flood risk assessment model. (*Medium-term*)

Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)

- (m) GWA will work with Mr Green to mainstream the concept of gender in the Concept Paper by December 2002. (*Short-term*)
- (n) GWA will review the guidelines for the case studies and incorporate gender elements wherever appropriate by November 2002. (*Short-term*)
- (o) GWA will participate in the case studies evaluation meeting scheduled for January 2003. (*Short-term*)
- (p) GWA will nominate persons to attend the SAMTAC pilot project-planning meeting scheduled for 2-3 December 2002, in Porto-Allegre. (*Short-term*)
- (q) GWA will review pilot project proposals and identify potential gender elements. (*Medium-term*)
- (r) GWA will present a paper on 'Gender and floods' at the WWF3. (*Short-term*)
- (s) APFM will proactively promote the concept of gender in all its activities. (*Short, Medium and Long-term*)
- (t) APFM may contribute to GWA's preparations for the "court case" at Kyoto. (*Short-term*)

5.3: The International Human Dimensions Programme for Global Environmental Change (IHDP) was represented at the First Consultative Meeting on Building Partnerships held from 19-20 February 2002 in Geneva. At this Second Meeting, attention was given to the following prospects for joint action:

- (a) IHDP could become involved in pilot projects to incorporate the concept of global change if such projects are to be initiated in Southern Africa and Central America. (*Long-term*)
- (b) APFM will sensitize its contacts on the work of IHDP. (*Short, Medium and Long-term*)

6 Closure of the meeting

The meeting closed at 12h30 on Wednesday 6 November 2002.

AGENDA

Chairperson: Arthur J. Askew

Day 1 (Monday - 4/11/2002)

9.30-9.45	1. Welcome, opening and self-introduction
9.45-10.15	2. Introduction to APFM
10.15-10.30	3. Clarifications
10.30-10.45	Tea
10.45-11.15	4. Presentation of the Concept Paper on Integrated Flood Management (<i>Mr. Colin Green, Flood Hazard Research Centre, Univ. of Middlesex</i>)
11.15-12.00	5. Study concept paper
12.00-14.00	Lunch (at Han Lung restaurant)
14.00-14.15	6. Flood video from Colombia
14.15-14.45	7. Presentation of the draft study on the ' <i>The Economics of Integrated Water Resources Management: flood risk management</i> ' (<i>Mr. Colin Green</i>)
14.45-15.30	8. Study economic paper
15.30-15.45	Tea
15.45-17.00	9. Discussion/clarifications on Concept Paper and Economic Study

Day 2 (Tuesday - 5/11/2002)

9.00-9.30	10. Introduction to the Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM), U.S.A. (<i>Mr. George Riedel</i>)
9.30-9.45	11. Clarifications
9.45-10.05	12. Introduction to the Parrett Catchment Project (PCP) (<i>Ms. Harriet Candy</i>)
10.05-10.20	13. Clarifications
10.20-10.40	14. Introduction to the Gender and Water Alliance (G&W) (<i>Ms. Jennifer Francis</i>)
10.40-10.55	15. Clarifications
10.55-11.10	Tea
11.10-11.20	16. Introduction to group discussion
11.20-12.00	17. Break into 3 groups (4 per group) to identify areas for collaboration
12.00-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.00	18. Continue group discussion
14.00-14.15	19. Feedback - Group 1 (ASFPM)
14.15-14.45	20. Discussion
14.45-15.00	21. Feedback - Group 2 (PCP)
15.00-15.30	22. Discussion
15.30-15.45	Tea
15.45-16.00	23. Feedback - Group 3 (G&W)
16.00-16.30	Discussion
16.30-17.00	24. Proposals for joint activities

Day 3 (Wednesday - 6/11/2002)

9.00-9.30	25. Presentation of revised Concept Paper (based on comments made on day 1)
9.30-9.45	26. Finalization of the Concept Paper
9.45-10.15	27. Recommendations for further developing/modifying the Economic Study
10.15-10.30	Tea
10.30-12.00	28. Consideration of a plan of joint activity
12.00-12.15	29. Close meeting

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THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

*Human history becomes more and more a race
between education and catastrophe. -- H. G. Wells*

THE ASFPM STORY

The Association of State Floodplain Managers began in 1977 as the supporting organization of professionals involved in floodplain management, flood hazard mitigation, flood preparedness, and flood warning and recovery. It is the mission of the Association to mitigate the losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding and to promote wise use of the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. Today the ASFPM is the premier voice in floodplain management practice and policy throughout the nation. Our 6,000 national and 16 chapter members represent local, state and federal government agencies, citizen groups, private consulting firms, academia, the insurance industry, and lenders. ASFPM's influence is expressed through policy and practice changes that impact floodplain management in the U.S. and internationally. Our goals are simple – help the public and private sectors:

- Reduce the loss of human life and property damage resulting from flooding.
- Preserve the natural and cultural values of floodplains.
- Promote flood mitigation for the prevention of loss.
- Avoid actions that exacerbate flooding.

ASFPM points with pride to many projects and activities . . .

- ☞ We promote flood policies, like No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management, to reverse the trend of ever-increasing flood damages.
- ☞ We operate a nationwide program to certify floodplain managers, with an aggressive continuing education element.
- ☞ We conduct technical conferences to bring together practitioners on a variety of "cutting edge" topical issues.
- ☞ We publish proceedings from our conferences to shape the landscape of floodplain management and policy with state-of-the-art thinking.
- ☞ We helped establish the "Community Rating System" as a means to reward communities for sound floodplain management and continue to assist in its operation and refinement.
- ☞ We develop papers and reports analyzing flood policy in the nation, with recommendations for modifications and enhancements which foster more effective mitigation implementation at the local level.
- ☞ We address topical issues pertinent to flood hazards - arid west, alluvial fan flooding, coastal hazards, ice jams, etc.
- ☞ We confer annual national awards to recognize and encourage exemplary achievements in floodplain management.
- ☞ We established the ASFPM Foundation to attract and direct funds to projects vital to broadening the base of informed and technically capable persons responsible for decisions affecting floodplains.

ASFPM is committed to working with local and state governments, federal agencies, the insurance and development industries, Congress, research and academia colleagues, our numerous partners in the private and public sectors, and other professionals in floodplain management as well as related fields. We invite all who are dedicated to the future well being of this nation to join us in working toward reduced overall flood losses and the wise use of our lands.

Look for additional information and the membership application on our website at www.floods.org. That's where you will also find the goals, activities and accomplishments of our 12 policy committees who orchestrate the bulk of our national flood policy work. You may contact our Executive Office as below.

Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc.
2809 Fish Hatchery Road
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THE PARRETT CATCHMENT PROJECT

The Parrett Catchment Project (PCP) is a broad based partnership whose long-term goal is to develop a sustainable approach to land and water management that benefits the economic, social and cultural life of the Parrett Catchment, and conserves and enhances the environment.

Location



The Parrett Catchment is the largest river system in Somerset, covering about half of the county and incorporating five major rivers, Parrett, Tone, Yeo, Isle and Cary, which discharge via the Parrett into the Bristol Channel. The catchment includes the urban areas of Bridgwater and Taunton, both at serious flood risk, as well as the internationally recognised wetlands of the Somerset Levels and Moors. The area has a long history of flooding and of serious contention over flooding and water management issues.

Flooding in the Parrett Catchment

Much of the catchment receives higher than national average rainfall and the capacity of the river channels in the lower reaches is often exceeded. Regular flooding of the lower lying land is expected, and communities, local industries and the landscape have evolved together over the centuries to cope with these conditions. But the problem is getting significantly worse, affecting communities, their homes, businesses and the rural economy, closing A-roads and important minor routes, and threatening wildlife and habitats.

The area is at risk from fluvial (rainwater) flooding, which is often compounded by high tides preventing evacuation of floodwaters to the Bristol Channel. The risk of flooding looks to increase according to the latest climate change figures (UKCIP April 2002), which predict an increase in winter rainfall of 18%, an increase in the frequency and severity of storms, which often results in flash flooding causing significant damage, and a 60cm rise in sea level by 2050 in the South West.

Building consensus

The summer floods in 1997 and the 1999/2000 winter floods demonstrated that the current river system was under severe stress and unlikely to be able to cope with future major events. Following this local people and organisations came together to initiate a fresh approach to flood management and in March 2000, the PCP was set up by local agencies. This pioneering approach aims to manage flood risk and water management in a more sustainable way through partnership and consensus and has the following objectives.

- Developing an integrated flood management plan for the Parrett Catchment
- Providing a sustainable approach to flood management, including flood defences for towns and villages and safeguarding of environmental interest, particularly wildlife habitats
- Promoting measures to modify land use across the catchment

This innovative approach to flood management responds to the challenge set by Minister Elliot Morley in the House of Commons in May 2000 that: *"Local people should come together and agree a long-term management plan, which is based on the river catchment."*

Intensive discussions between the project partners (around 20 in all, including strong community representation covered by several organisations) have developed a broad consensus on the way forward; in January 2001, this was published as the PCP Action Strategy.

Our Action Strategy

The PCP recognises the many benefits that can be gained from bringing the floodwater under better management, enabling rural communities to face the future with confidence, the farming community to remain viable and profitable and conservation areas to achieve 'favourable status' to meet international obligations.

The PCP Action Strategy provides the long-term vision for the Parrett Catchment over the next 50 years. A number of aims and objectives have been identified to achieve this vision. These objectives will be met through a programme of initiatives, which are grouped into three time bands: short (1-5 years), medium (5-10 years) and long term (over 10 years). The strategy consists of twelve integrated catchment management components. These represent a suite of complementary initiatives, adapted to local conditions, which are being combined to reduce the adverse effects of flooding.

Integrated Catchment Management Plan – Guiding the PCP Vision.

The PCP is one of the first UK initiatives that have incorporated the concept of Integrated Catchment Management within an Action Strategy. The PCP has identified twelve mutually agreed components of integrated catchment management. These components target water management improvements, which also bring improvements to the social and economic well being of the communities within the catchment.

MAINTAINING PARTNERSHIP

The key challenge for the PCP will be to develop the partnership fully into an integrated body that pools its resources and skills to deliver the key objectives and carry out the agreed programme of initiatives over the coming years.

The partnership will drive forward these initiatives on many levels:

1. The development of the Integrated Catchment Management Plan, which continues to set the framework for the PCP and its partners to work to.
2. Brokering and discussion between key stakeholders, agencies, and authorities to identify and agree the way forward on particular issues.
3. Establishing demonstration sites of new initiatives to identify and promote best practice, and commissioning new studies to enhance current understanding.
4. Lobbying for policy change to promote and support PCP initiatives.

Our Partnership

Key to delivering PCP strategy is maintaining partnership. Recognising and maximising opportunities is crucial to the development of the project. The dynamic nature of the project is reflected in the partnership, which has grown and strengthened as PCP develops.

Since its foundation in March 2000, the Partnership has grown to include West Dorset District Council, the Regional Development Agency, British Waterways, and the Council for the Protection of Rural England. International links have been forged with partners in Holland, France and Germany, all facing similar issues, to share knowledge and experience.

The Parrett Catchment Project has made huge strides forward because it crosses political boundaries and has support from all political interests in Somerset. We feel it is important to maintain this unity and to continue to attract the excellent support we have had from Elliot Morley MP (Parliamentary Secretary at DEFRA).

Recognition

As well as political recognition, the partnership approach and the strength of a mutually agreed strategy has been recognised as a model for best practice by many prestigious organisations. The Institute of Civil Engineers featured the Parrett Catchment Project in its document 'Learning to Live with Rivers' as one of only three best practice case studies.

At the Royal Town Planning Institute's Annual Awards for Planning Achievement Ceremony 2001 the Parrett Catchment Project received the Award for 'Planning for Inland Water'. This recognises the innovative nature of PCP's partnership approach and highlights that PCP can be used as a national pilot whose principles may be applied to other areas hit by flooding.

Wider UK recognition has more recently been given to the ideas emerging from PCP, specifically the farming water initiatives. This concept is featured in the post foot and mouth report of the Policy Commission on the Future of Food

and Farming which recommended that the government encourage such schemes as the PCP and that national policy reflects this support.

ACHIEVING ACTION ON THE GROUND

Whilst the Action Strategy is an ambitious 50-year vision, the PCP has already made considerable progress on all levels towards achieving this vision. The most significant progress has been made in “getting the system geared up” to respond to our strategy, and enable the PCP to move from the consensus building stage and into the action phase, and start to deliver our vision.

- The views of farming and conservation aspirations are the closest they have been in 30 years, overcoming what has often been considered a major obstacle for change.
- In Spring 2002, the Environment Agency launched the Parrett Catchment Water Management Strategy Action Plan, the first programme of its kind in the country, providing a long-term coherent management plan, detailing a massive programme of work within the Parrett Catchment. Many of the Parrett Catchment Project’s aims and objectives are included as specific actions and targets. PCP played a significant role in shaping this work plan, and the partnership approach has given the Environment Agency the confidence to implement such an ambitious plan.
- 2002 is a review year for agri-environment schemes offering opportunities to promote new ideas and initiatives. The PCP intends to be a working element of the review and will make a strong case for Somerset initiatives and improvements.
- New innovative ideas are starting to develop; discussions investigating opportunities such as “farming water”, improvement of land use management to provide water and flood management benefits, including temporary storage of water, land use change, new management techniques, and investigating the role of wet woodland in flood management are just a few ideas.
- In July 2001 Central Government issued advice on development and flood risk in its Planning Policy Guidance 25, which supports many of the objectives of the PCP strategy. PCP used this opportunity to host a regional seminar to discuss and promote the advice it contained, and to bring key players together to identify opportunities to implement PPG 25 in Somerset.
- PCP has won European support and recognition for its Farming Water initiatives as part of the “Joint Approach to manage Flooding” (JAF) project. By joining together with European partners facing similar water resources challenges, to share knowledge, expertise, and experience, JAF has been approved a total spend of €15.5M over the next 4 years, €2.5M of which is to be invested in Farming Water in Somerset
- A real success story is the on going work of the Silt and Surface Water Runoff Group, who are actively involved in working with land managers to reduce soil erosion, and subsequent blockage of drains, closure of access routes and to reduce compaction and increase infiltration in soils. All of this work will increase the sustainable water management within the catchment.

THE FUTURE

Whilst proud of its achievements, the PCP is very much focused on the future. PCP is aware many of the project’s ideas are new and challenging requiring changes in attitudes at high policy level. PCP needs to work hard to promote and influence these changes, and to ensure that policy and plans turn into delivered action on the ground. Some major tasks for the PCP in the short term include:

- Having identified the components of integrated catchment management, an Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP) needs to be developed to provide the framework for delivering them. The objective of the ICMP is to ensure that the individual policies and actions of the individual partners are co-ordinated and complementary in achieving the PCPs long-term aims. Phase 1 of the ICMP is due autumn 2002.
- Setting up ‘farming water’ pilot projects to understand the implications and impacts of such schemes, and gain the knowledge required to enable a catchment-wide roll out of these schemes.
- To take forward the current washlands initiatives and identify how these can be integrated in flood management within Somerset.

- To progress the Sowy (river Parrett relief channel) improvements option, which may have a significant effect on the management of other areas of the system. In particular, the issue of evacuating the excess water through the King Sedgemoor Drain, and the implications this may have. Each of the available options will be fully assessed and evaluated.
- Reviewing existing cost benefit analysis criteria for flood defence project funding, with a view to improving the process to better reflect and assess the unique position of Somerset.
- Reducing the tidal influence on the River Parrett by preventing or reducing the import of estuarine silt and cutting off tidal surges.
- PCP is working with the River Parrett Trail to co-host the first River Parrett Festival. This is an opportunity to raise awareness of the role of the river and its catchment within the community, environment, and economy of the local area. The Festival is seen as an opportunity to link upper and lower river communities and to better engage the upper communities in the Parrett Catchment Project.

Our Partners include:

British Waterways, Council for the Protection of Rural England, Country Land & Business Association, Countryside Agency, DEFRA, English Nature, Environment Agency, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Five Parishes Consortium, Kings Sedgemoor and Cary Valley Internal Drainage Board, Levels and Moors Partnership, National Farmers Union, Parrett Consortium of Drainage Boards, RSPB, Somerset Agricultural Advisory Service, Sedgemoor District Council, South Somerset District Council, South West of England Regional Development Agency, Somerset County Council, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Taunton Deane Borough Council, Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committee, West Dorset District Council, 'Wise Use of Floodplains' EU Life Project, with apologies to anyone we have missed.



An Associated Programme of the



The Gender and Water Alliance

“The GWAlliance is a network of organisations working to achieve equity and equality amongst women and men, irrespective of age, colour, religion culture, language or income, regarding sustainable water resources development and management at all levels. The GWAlliance is a participants’ organisation where all decisions are taken collectively and all structures are transparent and accessible.”

Mainstreaming Gender in Integrated Water Resources Management

Integrated water resources management refers to the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources for optimising economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems. Optimising development implies recognising that women and men of all strata have different requirements and often unequal opportunities for domestic and productive uses of water and the use of catchment areas and that women and the poor generally have fewer opportunities to share in and benefit from development and management. Changing practices for greater equity is required through more effective mobilisation of human resources and institutional capacities and resulting in more logical sharing of burdens, benefits and responsibilities between women and men.

The World Water Vision has declared that every woman, man and child must have access to safe and adequate water, sanitation and food, but also be responsible for ensuring maintenance of the ecosystem. Governments are urged to involve interest groups in all levels of decision and policy making, and to establish and strengthen mechanisms at national, regional and international levels to facilitate the required participation of all stakeholders.

The GWAlliance through the associated programme thus aims to contribute to enabling governments to concretely implement these recommendations, and incorporate gender and equity practices into legislation, policies, and decision-making processes concerning design and management of water resources and systems. It will help to establish mechanisms according to local conditions and needs, and so ensure equitable and meaningful participation of all interests groups in managing water resources. It will also contribute to mobilising the rights and meeting the demands of poor women and men to have affordable working and accountable services.

Guiding Principles of the GWAlliance

To achieve the objectives of mainstreaming gender through the programme, the GWAlliance is working with 110 organisations all over the world, working at all levels (from political to grassroots) based on the following principles:

- a The Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) believes that promotion of water security for both men and women is integral to the efficiency of water resource management initiatives and services.
- b The Gender and Water Alliance believes in the equitable distribution of responsibilities, burdens and benefits between women and men as well as their equal participation in dialogue and decision-making in the development and management of sustainable water resources.
- c The Gender and Water Alliance believes that by working strategically and collaboratively, it can add value to the work of organizations working in the water sector at the global, regional, national and local level in the area of gender mainstreaming.
- d The Gender and Water Alliance believes that by working to strengthen the capacity and role of existing organizations in gender mainstreaming it will be able to work in a manner that is cost-effective and avoid duplication.
- e The Gender and Water Alliance believes that by working collectively through a strong networking arrangement with its partners it can help to strengthen the objectives of gender mainstreaming.
- f The Gender and Water Alliance believes it can have significant impact influencing the practice of existing organizations working at the policy, planning, implementation and research level in the water sector.
- g The Gender and Water Alliance believes that it needs to enhance its impact by mobilising commitments from governments, agencies, professionals, the private sector, CBOs and other civil society organizations to invest in resources required for gender mainstreaming.

How can we do better in the 21st century?

Mainstreaming gender implies that knowledge and skills are used in a more holistic and systematic manner so that gender equity practice becomes an integral dimension of programmes and community level processes for integrated water resources management. Human and organisational resources for a systematised and holistic application of gender concepts and strategies are increasingly available. However, they lack both the critical mass and obvious entry points necessary to be pro-active in meeting the growing demand, and filling knowledge and skills gaps in this developing subject area. Emphasis should therefore be given to linkages across current disciplinary, subsectoral /organisations and grassroots organisations reflecting the specific historical, political and cultural backgrounds from which organisations dealing with gender and water have sprung.

A critical mass for meeting and developing gender mainstreaming requires more effective and professional networking and information management through an alliance of partners at all levels, and representing all sub-sectors and themes. Such an alliance makes it possible to establish a memory bank and knowledge base and facilitate the coordinated undertaking of action to enhance information and skills, mainstream their application and fill new knowledge gaps.

The GWAlliance through the associated programme activities will:

- a Collect, share and use - in electronic and hard copy version - key existing policies and practices in the water sector
- b Analyse and share key elements of success and failure in the gender mainstreaming practice of Alliance members and others, and develop new strategies
- c Develop and implement targeted advocacy on good practice of gender mainstreaming in national, regional and international fora

- d Develop and implement new, improved and tailored methodologies and tools for training and capacity building
- e Test and replicate good practice in gender mainstreaming through pilot initiatives developed by Alliance members

How can you contribute?

You can contribute to mainstreaming gender in integrated water resources management through:

- Joining in the Gender and Water Alliance
- Including gender considerations in your activities

If you are interested in participating in our activities, contact

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