World Meteorological Organization

Global Water Partnership

# ASSOCIATED PROGRAMME ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT

***Draft***

# ACTIVITY PLAN OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE II

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The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) is a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP). It promotes the concept of Integrated Flood Management (IFM) as a new approach to flood management. The programme is financially supported by the governments of Japan and the Netherlands.

The World Meteorological Organization is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations and represents the UN-System's authoritative voice on weather, climate and water. It co-ordinates the meteorological and hydrological services of 187 countries and territories.

The Global Water Partnership is an international network open to all organizations involved in water resources management. It was created in 1996 to foster Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

# ACTIVITY PLAN OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE II

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# 1. OBJECTIVE AND TARGET OF THE PHASE II

The phase I of the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) has established the principles of Integrated Flood Management through the IFM Concept Paper supported by Flood Management Policy Series papers on Legal, Environmental, Social and Economic Aspects, drawing lessons and recommendations from case studies and vindicated by the outcome of the pilot projects. The programme has established a website to offer variety of information including various products of APFM and a set of databases on flood management. This website also works as a platform for stakeholders to discuss issues and advocate adoption and implementation of appropriate strategies and policies related to IFM.

The phase II of the programme will consolidate these gains. It is focused on implementation of the IFM concept on the ground. It will develop capacities in the countries by supporting local and regional actions that advocate, support or demonstrate the IFM principles. The primary focus will be on activities at the ground levels through field demonstration projects (pilot projects) to put the concept of IFM, in its multidisciplinary approach, into practice. This will be supported by a combination of training and awareness building to convey the need of addressing flood management issues with the integrated water resources management for sustainable development. The advocacy for IFM will be achieved through capacity development, implementation of field demonstration projects and providing long-term support in the form of HelpDesk and information services. Major outputs of the programme would be:

- Field Demonstration Projects on IFM;
- Platforms for multidisciplinary dialogue;
- Network of institutions supporting multidisciplinary approach;
- Training, awareness building and advocacy material;
- Capacity building through Trainings of Trainers, Regional Workshops and Seminars;
- Information services in form of a web site and a Reference Centre on Flood Management;
- Decision making Tools in support of IFM; and
- Strategic advice on flood management projects in form of a HelpDesk.

These will be achieved in four definitive steps running concurrently. These are:

1. Advocacy for Integrated Flood Management;
2. Capacity Development for adopting Integrated Flood Management approach;
3. Field Demonstration Projects; and
4. Provision of Information and HelpDesk Services

Advocacy for Integrated Flood Management will be the continuous effort utilizing advocacy materials developed during phase I in the form of Flood Management Policy Series to initiate the policy makers and flood managers into a dialogue, with disciplines other than the engineering, for an integrated approach to flood management. Such advocacy materials will also help policy makers in putting across probing questions and make informed and analytical decisions. In phase II, awareness building and advocacy materials will be disseminated further through various channels including, but not limited to, information circulars, conferences, seminars, workshops with target group specific with key messages and other formats.

# 2. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR IFM

## 2.1 Tools to develop IFM strategy in the field

Capacity building through maintaining high level of knowledge and skills is essential for putting the concept into practice, once it is accepted at the policy level. It requires tools to put the concepts developed in the Policy Series into implementation. Wherever directly available, these tools are referred to from the existing literature. As IFM is conceptually a subset of IWRM, available tools from IWRM will be adopted or suitably adapted to meet the special needs of flood management. Development of new tools, as and when identified, will be encouraged through other partners and programmes such as "International Flood Initiative" and I-CHARM and WMO regular programme. Some of the tools however, would be specifically developed under phase II. The purpose of the tools is not to make the decision makers and planners experts in their use but to expose them to their availability, scope and limitations. There are several tools, which have already been identified during the process of compiling Policy Series such as "Decision Making Process", "Flood Management Basin Planning", "Rapid Assessment of Flood Damages", "Urban Flood Management Issues" and "Adaptive Management Techniques". These are briefly discussed in the following paragraphs.

In the process of *formulating strategy for IFM* involving various stakeholders, different opinions, which in some cases may be opposed to each other, have to be taken into account. The challenge is how to make decision at various levels recognizing and factoring these opinions in a convincing manner. It requires impartiality in the process and the decisions should be based on multidisciplinary approach to examine different perspectives and point of views. There are also various constraints in such decision making, which can be broadly categorized into: physical, financial, social, political legal, and environmental. There are several other issues in the process such as, what kind of factors should be considered, how to ensure the stakeholder involvement, how to facilitate mutual understanding and consensus building, how to promote dialogue in a pragmatic manner, etc. These will be listed and discussed in the tool to provide general guidance.

*Basin Flood Management Plan* should reflect the national development policy to realize social and economic development of the country and at the same time should develop strategies for alleviation of flood risks and maximizing the net benefits from flood plains within the context of overall objectives of IWRM. On the other hand, a number of public policies, not directly linked to flood management, also influence the flood risks, (e.g., land policies, environmental conservations) and therefore, they should be taken into account as an important input to the process of flood management policy formulation. Such a plan should be assessed in terms of its impacts on flood risk, environment, and socio-economic situation. This tool will factor all these aspects in the process of formulating Basin Flood Management Plan.

*Rapid Assessment of Flood Damages and Emergency Needs:* In flood emergency response, assessment of the immediate needs of the affected communities and the requirements at the time of evacuation from high risk areas is essential to activate the local search & rescue teams, and organize external help from provincial or federal authorities, NGOs and other international agencies if the scale of the disaster exceeds local capacities. In the recovery process from the disaster, assessment of damages such as impact of the disaster on infrastructure like hospitals, bridges and roads should be undertaken to formulate the recovery plan to mobilize national and international support mechanism. This should be reflected in the future flood emergency management plans. It also should be reflected in the basin management plans by reexamining the appropriateness of the current plans. This tool will give guidance to conduct such assessment during and after flood.

*Urban Flood Management Issues*: Rapid urbanization in many parts of the world has resulted in increase of the flood risks in the areas. Main cause of urban flooding is the water generated from within the city is as a result of paving of the ground and large building areas. This is sometimes aggravated by the land subsidence caused by excess extraction of ground water to meet the increased demand for water due to urbanization. To alleviate these risks, structural and non structural measures should be taken such as land use management to secure and revive retarding function in the area, drainage system improvement, flood proofing techniques to

improve the resilience of structures, maintaining hygiene condition by supporting people in providing antiseptic and safe water resources, etc. This tool will address such risks and introduce the methodology for urban flood management.

*Adaptive Management Techniques*: In order to account for the lack of scientific certainty such as existing condition of the ecosystems, the impacts of human interventions on ecosystems, and climate variability and change, precautionary principles have been recommended in international agreements. Adaptive management has been widely recognized as the appropriate approach to deal with such scientific uncertainties, wherein, decisions are made as part of an ongoing science-based process. In the publication on Environmental Aspects of IFM, an adaptive management approach has been discussed briefly. Despite the wider acceptance of adaptive management approaches in principle, however, how this approach can be used in practice is yet to be established in many countries. It requires behavioural change between different institutions and organizations, since it calls for a willingness to experiment and accept occasional failures and allows for mid-course correction during implementation and operation flood management measures through regular monitoring. This tool will address such aspects with reference to flood management.

*Flood reservoir operations and managed flows*: A change in the timing, frequency and magnitude of natural floods due to dams and reservoirs can have negative impacts on both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. The managed flood releases can help maintain natural ecological and morphological processes in a river, downstream flood plain wetland ecosystems and their dependent livelihoods, etc. Understanding and modeling these relationships is arguably one of the great challenges for reservoir operations. The decision on reservoir operations, setting the duration of the flow releases and the shape of the artificial flood hydrograph should form part of the project design and should be based on ecological requirements. This tool will address not only technical aspects of managed floods releases, but also how consensus building in conflict situations can be attempted.

*Environmental Assessment*: In the publication on Environmental Aspects of IFM, emphasis has been put on environmental assessment not only at the project design and implementation level, but also on up-streaming it at the strategic level. At the same time, it is realized that environmental assessment should be applied not only to large projects which are subjected to the EIA is subject to, but also to various plans and projects that are likely to cause adverse impacts on the environment. Efforts must be made to avoid, reduce or mitigate the adverse impacts of such plans and projects under a given hydro-climate, topographical, and socio-economic settings in a basin. It is aimed at exploring the possibility of developing a tool for environmental assessment both at the project and strategic level with special reference to flood management.

It is also realized that special requirements for coastal flooding, flooding in estuaries and delta areas, karst flooding[1], etc., also need to be addressed through special technical notes. Especially, it has been recognized that estuary and deltaic management must be integrated in IFM, since estuary and deltaic processes are largely influenced by fluvial systems. In principle, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) will be synergized with IFM and IWRM at the river basin level. Some of those interactions between fluvial and coastal systems have already been discussed briefly in the publication on Environmental aspects of IFM.

## 2.2 Support national and regional effort for capacity development

One of the main aims of APFM is to support national and regional efforts in implementing the concept of Integrated Flood Management. In phase II, efforts would continue in this direction by providing knowledge base in the form of publications and website database and disseminating information through meetings, conferences and training programme to help people in recognizing its significance and enhancing motivation to initiate Integrated Flood Management in their country.

[1] Flooding in the karst areas differs from other types of rive flooding, because apart from surface flows, it occurs as a consequence of rise in ground water levels, which requires special treatment.

It is essential to mobilize all stakeholders in the formulation of IFM strategy. Therefore, it is necessary to build capacity in the country in order to apply the concept of IFM at various levels and to address all stakeholders. There is need to develop capacity building material targeting variety of stakeholders. It is also important to build awareness of all stakeholders on various issues related to flood risks. Particularly, awareness of risks and how the vulnerabilities against such risks should be reduced is extremely important for the communities prone to flooding.

To develop IFM strategy in the country, drafting ideas and organizing dialogue between stakeholders is initiated by flood practitioner or policy maker concerned to identify the objectives and scope of this exercise. In such a process, it is generally beneficial if such activities are facilitated or supported by third party. In Phase II, APFM will facilitate such service in collaboration with other partners in the form of co-organizing or assisting national or regional workshops, giving advise in developing strategy and supporting capacity building in the country.

### 2.2.1 Presentation material of IFM

It is recognized that, according to the target audience, the way of presenting the IFM concept becomes different, since the knowledge and level of information of different stakeholders is diverse and different. In order to enable effective stakeholder participation to be put in place toward IFM, there is a need for developing presentation or training material for each targeted audience. The presentation material will be developed to provide information about the concept of IFM to various stakeholders in flood management, ranging from policy makers and flood managers, to the general public and media. Therefore, it is planned to develop the following material: 1) Introductory power point slides on IFM and various aspects of IFM (i.e. legal and institutional, environmental, social, and economic aspects) in general; 2) one-hour presentation material about IFM and various aspects of IFM for specific audiences; and 3) IFM training material for flood managers (for one or two weeks training courses).

Introductory power point slides focusing on specific aspects of IFM in general will be provided on the website as the IFM introductory presentations. They will be brief, attractive, and readily understandable to various stakeholders. Each of the presentations would contain 10 to 15 slides.

Presentation material about IFM and various aspects of IFM will focus on specific audience with different style and language. Different material will be developed for different audience that include policy makers, flood managers, and the general public and media. It would be used at various occasions of training courses to be organized by our partners (for example, ADPC, I-CHARM) and at meetings, workshops, conferences, etc. As emphasis is to be put on advocating concepts of IFM, it is planned to be developed by the TSU.

IFM training material for flood managers will be prepared so that IFM can be introduced at technical level. It would be used at IFM training courses to be coordinated by the APFM or partner organizations for one or two weeks or included as part of a larger/regular course. This material would contain technical details focusing on various aspects of IFM. While conceptual part of the material can be prepared by the TSU, there is a need for close collaboration with experts and institutions from the related fields to develop technical aspects adopting IFM in a practical term. I-CHARM, UNESCO-IHE, IWLRI, IAHR, etc., are expected to be partners in developing such material. These activities will also support capacity development, as well as HelpDesk services.

### 2.2.2 Training course

A number of initiatives have been taken recently for providing training in IWRM. UNESCO-IHE, CapNet, IWLearn, WBI and a number of other regional institutions are engaged in this gigantic task. These courses and trainings address various issues related to scarcity of water and its management. Unfortunately, these training modules quite often do not address the issues of excess of water in form of flooding. The development of IFM Concept Paper and a suite of flood management policy papers and experiences from the pilot projects have generated a considerable amount of material that can be adopted for developing course

material. During the phase I of the programme, efforts have been made to integrate the flood management issues in IWRM courses in association with CapNet and WBI.

The phase II programme envisages development of appropriate modules for variety of training courses addressing various sections of stakeholders. This will also include an online training course. Regional workshops and seminars will further support such a capacity development. The APFM already enjoys the partnership of two parent organisations, which are the best in their respective fields and play complementing roles with different constituencies with vital roles in flood management. Training of trainers would be taken up through a number of WMO Regional Training Centres as well as in collaboration with other partners.

The APFM have also developed partnership with various groups during phase I to communicate, coordinate, and collaborate with an aim to accomplish the common purpose of achieving sustainable development. Co-organizing training courses will be taken up in phase II. Some of the collaborating partnerships which have been initiated during phase I and proposed to be consolidated and new ones to be developed for the IFM advocacy and training are:

- JICA, ADB
- CapNet, IWLearn, WBI, UNITAR and UNESCO-IHE
- UNESCO, ISDR and other UN System Agencies and Programs active in Flood Management
- ADPC, ADRC, PWRI (I-CHARM)
- International Red Cross and INBO
- IAHS, IAHR, ICID and ICOLD
- IWLRI and International Law Association

# 3. FIELD DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Supporting national and sub-national entities in implementation of the IFM concept on the ground is one of the priorities of the APFM Phase II through field demonstration projects. The following arrangement is being proposed to develop and implement projects in support of IFM in view of the availability and magnitude of APFM core funding: funds from the APFM core budget will be used for full support of a limited number of pilot projects. The APFM core budget will be largely used to facilitate the formulation process of pilot project proposals, to be implemented with third party funds. A second distinction can be made by categorizing the projects into entirely new pilot projects and support to projects undertaken in the APFM Phase I, especially concerning the regional outreach and upscaling of project results.

## 3.1 New Pilot projects

*Mexico (Extra Budgetary)*
The south of Mexico is regularly affected by floods. WMO over the past 10 years has in collaboration with CONAGUA (Mexico's National Water Administration), developed basic inputs for a flood management system, especially in the area of upgrading the hydrometeorological network and flood forecasting and warning capacities in the country. To make most effective use of these instruments in a wider strategy for Integrated Flood Management, it is intended to work with a group of required stakeholders within one of the southern river basins of Mexico. The project is planned to be started in 2007.

The main partner for the development and implementation of the project would be CONAGUA, which would serve also as primary financial partner. It is intended to actively involve institutions, especially the ones dealing with wider environmental issues as well as civil defence and planning. Together with required civil society inputs and based on the needs of flood-affected communities, the project intends to maximize the net benefits from flood plains and to minimize the loss of life from flooding. A WMO project office within CONAGUA has been established since 2006 for other ongoing projects in Mexico, which could also serve as project implementation office in Mexico for the APFM project.

Within the project setup, APFM would provide inputs concerning the basic policy lines of the project, i.e. technical support for the project formulation process and review of project documents and outcomes in light of the IFM concept. It will guide the IFM process through the material developed within the Phase I and that would be developed in Phase II. Second important role concern support for uplinking the project results to the national policy-makers.

*Niger/Niger Basin (Extra Budgetary)*
The city of Niamey in Niger and its surroundings are regularly suffering from a number of flood phenomena that hamper the development process of the country, while flood waters also represents an important water resource. Integrated Flood Management offers the city and the wider basin an opportunity to develop and implement flood management strategies that support the countries efforts for sustainable development. This particularly counts in the sense of providing a livelihood perspective when assessing flood management options, and consequentially also a careful look at the ecosystems that support the livelihoods of the local community. Initial steps may be required to establish the basic data and information about the flood problems and existing management approach.

Main partners would include the Niger Basin Authority and AGRHYMET. Other partners include relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in particular the affected communities. APFM will support the formulation of a proposal for extrabudgetary funding and provide technical inputs into the implementation process or as supervising agency (depending on the scope of the project).

*South Asia Collaborative Environment Programme (Extra Budgetary)*
The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the Governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. Eight countries, namely; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan,

India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, has ratified the Articles of Association of SACEP, most of which are prone to regular floods. The Director General of SACEP at meeting with head of the TSU has encouraged to undertake a Flood Management Project in a river basin shared between India and Nepal on the platform of SACEP within the framework of the APFM to be implemented in the region.

The main financial partner would be the Global Environment Facility. Implementation partners would be the SACEP and associated government institutions of the countries in the selected basin. APFM will support in technical terms the formulation process of the project proposal for application under GEF funding. APFM will serve as a network hub for technical inputs into the implementation process or as supervising agency (depending on the scope of the project).

*Jamaica/Caribbean Islands (Extra Budgetary)*
Jamaica and most of the Caribbean and Central American region is regularly subject to hurricanes and related floods, landslides and mudflows. In most of the countries there is additionally a combination of these risks and risks related to other natural hazards of hydrometeorological or geo-physical origin. The combination with poverty and limited institutional capacities further increase the vulnerability of the exposed population to the negative effects of these phenomena. In collaboration with the Jamaican Water Resources Authority, the broad lines of a possible project in one of the major Jamaican River Basins with the objective to undertake a comprehensive risk assessment of natural hazards including floods, and to link the results to the national development planning processes.

Main partner in developing the proposal would be the Jamaican Water Resources Authority. Implementation would require a number of additional national stakeholders and other specialized agencies and respective line-ministries in particular the ones related to the Environment, Planning and Tourism. The project would be posed for funding by the regional financial partners. For the international outreach the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) could be a crucial partner, in addition to WMO network of Hydrological and Meteorological Services. APFM will support technically and financially the formulation process of a project proposal and the identification of financial partners. It will also serve as a network hub for technical inputs into the implementation process or as supervising agency (depending on the scope of the project).

*La Paz/Bolivia*
The city of La Paz in Bolivia and particularly its mayor have expressed their interest in developing a flood management project for the Urban environment of La Paz. The proposal was submitted to the Government of Germany for funding to the extent of one million Euro, which was accepted. Local stakeholders in the city of La Paz, including the mayors office, as well as relevant line agencies, esp. civil defence, planning and environment and hydro-meteorological institutions will be the partners in the project. The Bolivian authorities have requested for technical support to the project. APFM will provide the required technical back-up for the implementation of the projects.

### 3.2 Follow up of pilot projects in phase I

*Community Approach to Flood Management: South Asia*
After successfully developing and field testing the community approach to flood management in India, Bangladesh and Nepal on pilot scales, it will be crucial to provide some seed money for advocacy activities and facilitate action process to ensure that relevant line agencies in the three countries incorporate the proposed practices into their overall policies. This will be important to fully sustain and capitalize on the efforts in national outreach activities during the first phase of the APFM.

*Central and Eastern Europe*
The pilot project in Central and Eastern Europe has yielded a number of good practices for addressing the issue of flash floods taking a perspective on the information requirements of the local communities at risk of imminent flooding. The phenomenon of flash floods is common in CEE Region. Due to the fact that only three out of seven countries initially involved in the pilot project could be selected for implementation of the

pilot project in the CEE second phase, it is expected to disseminate the results of the pilot project back to the whole region. This will include the publication of a synthesis report with the preliminary title "Flash flood forecasting and warning - Moving local community needs into the centre of information policies". The prospect of disseminating those project findings on the national level and in regional fora such as the GWP-Central and Eastern Europe and WMO's constituent partners could be confirmed and additional possibilities might include the organization of a regional conference in case third party financial support can be organized. Similar follow up activities may be required for the pilot project in Zambia.

*Central America – Sixaola basin*

During Phase I, development of the pilot project in the Sixaola basin, which is shared between Costa Rica and Panama, has taken more time than anticipated. It has proved to be a time consuming process to incorporate the concept of IFM into the pilot project proposal in a transboundary river basin shared between two countries. The agreement on the scope of activities and the mode of implementation for IFM has finally been reached in March 2006. The pilot project will be taken up in Phase II after July 2006 under the APFM fund. The pilot project will essentially make a joint flood risk assessment in the basin and propose a IFM strategy. The project also envisages designing a flood forecasting system.

*Flood Management Strategy for the Kafue basin for Zambia*

The pilot project in Zambia is being launched with the view to assessing the flood impact in the Kafue Basin and drawing up an Integrated Flood Management Strategy for the basin. The strategy will be developed during the Phase I. APFM will continue to assist in implementing the IFM strategy and in organizing workshops for wider dissemination when necessary.

# 4. INFORMATION SERVICES

During the first phase, the APFM website was established as the central access point for information on flood management in order to:

- promote the IFM concepts;
- disseminate APFM activities in adopting IFM, such as field demonstration projects (i.e. pilot projects) and compilation of good practices and lessons learned from various regions of the world;
- facilitate a dialogue through a virtual forum
- provide for reference center on flood management (i.e. a set of databases); etc.

The APFM website will be continuously maintained and developed further to fulfill these purposes.

The interdisciplinary character of IFM requires a translation of sectoral and discipline focused language into consistent, comprehensive, feasible, acceptable dialect to achieve integrated policy framework. The virtual forum would provide a platform for policy makers, scientists, planners, executive functionaries and stakeholder representatives on various administrative scales to facilitate sharing and accessing the experiences and updated information on various facets of flood management. The expert groups established for the preparation of the advocacy materials could be regarded as the nucleus of special committees operating on the platform.

Researchers, social scientists, hydrologists, engineers and development planners have been working over past couple of decades on various facets of flood management. There is no dearth of research findings, good practices and strategies. However, these activities have been carried out by the specialists in disciplinary isolation with little or no cross-disciplinary interactions. The result is that the available information tends to be confined to the realms of particular discipline without ready accessibility so essential for an interdisciplinary approach. Therefore, the reference center will play a vital role in establishing linkages among various disciplines, institutions, and actors involved in flood management. This reference centre will contain several interactive databases such as flood management policy and legislation, literature on flood management that includes all APFM publications/tools, flood-prone area, and institutions involved in flood management, which have been developed under the first phase of APFM. These databases will be continuously updated.

The experience in the field of IWRM has shown that acceptance of IWRM philosophy has not automatically translated into its implementation at the field level. One critical success factor identified is the lack of a clear knowledge base. It is realized that there is need for an international institution, which can be approached by a country requiring working guidance on comprehensive issues of flood management in an integrated manner. In order to help in adopting IFM approaches on the ground, it is proposed to establish the IFM HelpDesk during the second phase of APFM.

The HelpDesk is "*information network of 1) various disciplines and organizations that are involved in flood management and 2) flood-prone basins: which enables a country and community to identify required tools and guidelines in adopting IFM and capture flood issues looking at the basin scale within the country*". The APFM publication and activities and the GWP Toolbox are also included in the information network within the IFM HelpDesk through the APFM website. Beyond these services, the IFM HelpDesk would also provide governmental and non-governmental entities with advice on flood management policy, strategy and project formulation, and training courses conformed with the principles of IFM, as and when required.

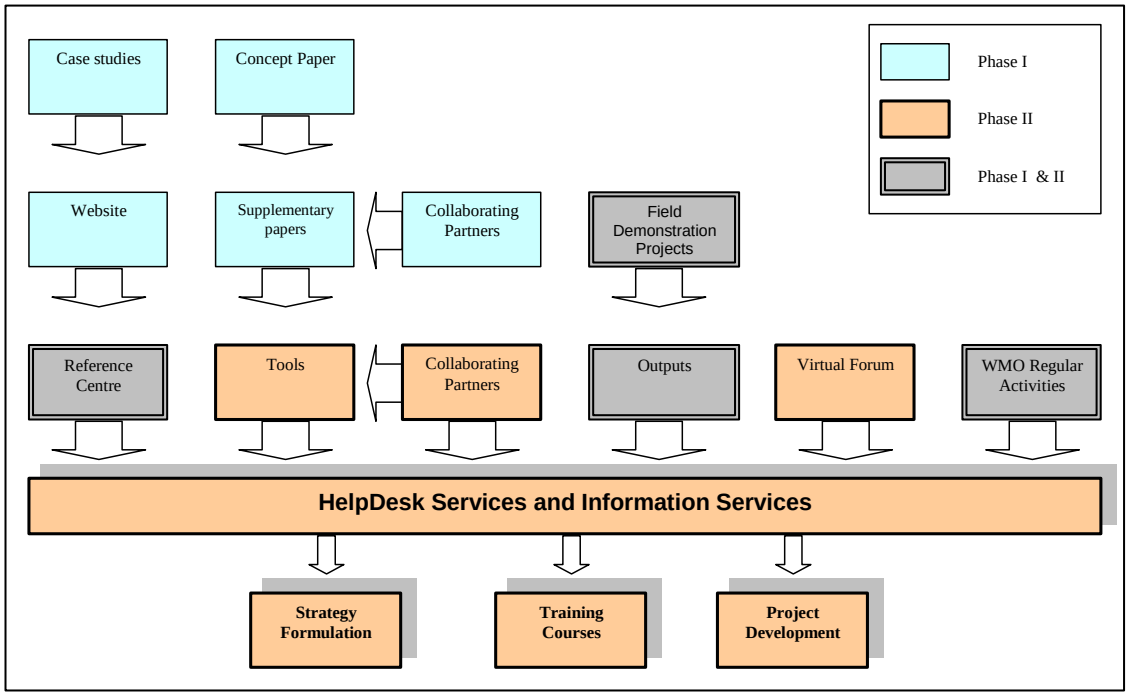


Figure: Helpdesk and information services

# 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF LINKAGES AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER INITIATIVES

In order to put a multidisciplinary approach in flood management into practice, there is an increasing need for establishing a linkage of various disciplines. It enables to address multi-facet of issues in flood management when needed. The APFM intends to intensify its linkages with key partners over the coming years and to institutionalize its cooperation with a number of those partners, e.g. through Memoranda of Understanding between WMO (as the APFM cannot enter into MoU as it is not a legal entity) and respective partner, with the aim of strategic partnership related to services under the planned IFM HelpDesk. Those organizations include but are not limited to:

- GWP Secretariat
- International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (I-CHARM), Public Works Research Institute, Tsukuba, Japan
- Centre for Water Law, Policy, and Science (formerly IWLRI) at the University of Dundee, Scotland, UK
- Flood Hazard Research Centre at the University of Middlesex, UK
- Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Thailand
- UNEP and especially UCC-Water
- World Bank Institute
- Regional Development Banks, especially ADB, AFDB, IADB
- Centre for Water and Climate, Wageningen, the Netherlands
- International Association for Hydraulic Research (IAHR)
- IUCN, IFRC, MunichRe, etc.

Capacity-building networks for the water sector will be of great importance for the phase II of the APFM and especially include UNESCO-IHE and Cap-Net, UNITAR, IW-Learn and Water Education for Teachers (WET). The APFM will build its efforts on existing linkages with those institutions to strengthen capacity building activities for IFM on a continuous basis. I-CHARM, formally established in 2006, will be a key strategic partner in a number of activities of the APFM.

Bilateral Technical Cooperation Agencies, such as JICA will be of increased importance to the APFM in the coming years for taking the IFM Pilot Projects to comprehensive project stages.

The International Flood Initiative (IFI) has been jointly setup by WMO and UNESCO in 2005 with IFM as its basic policy concept. For the activities of the APFM, IFI represents an additional mechanism for outreach of the concept of Integrated Flood Management and for future activities that support the implementation of the concept within the wider scientific community. Next to WMO and UNESCO, the main institutions involved in the initiative are: I-CHARM, UNU, UNISDR, and IAHS. Close coordination of activities of IFNet will be ensured on a continued basis.