

APFM Flood Management News

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PILOT PROJECTS

IFM National Consultation workshop and field visit, 24-25 October, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 26-28 October, Khulna District, Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Water Partnership requested through the Integrated Flood Management (IFM) HelpDesk, specific support of the WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM). The support had the following objectives: to introduce IFM concepts and tools to the top management of relevant agencies and stakeholders; to analyse the current flood management practices in the coastal zone and develop consensus on what constitutes an integrated approach to flood management in the coastal zone; to obtain feedback from stakeholders on the current coastal flood management policy and practice; and to develop a first draft of an Integrated Flood Management framework for the coastal areas of Bangladesh.

The two-day workshop was attended by over 100 participants, including the Minister of Water Resources, Directors from the government agencies dealing with water, national and international civil society organizations, academia and potential financial partners. The presentations and discussion in the workshop elucidated the main flood related issues in the coastal areas, namely: flood management decisions are frequently taken independently from land and water management, ecosystems and infrastructure; women are excluded from decision-making processes at the local level; embankment heights are not adequate for rising sea level and storm surges, which is a particularly urgent need considering siltation of river beds; technical solutions with narrow



scopes are implemented without considering maintenance of infrastructure; foreshore afforestation to reduce impact of storm surges has been limited; limited stakeholder involvement in the design and implementation of revamping infrastructure; limited current forecasting ability of coastal flooding (tidal flood and storm surge), only cyclone forecast and tidal height, no combined flood height forecast in the coastal zone – a consequence of limited coordination between meteorological and hydrological services; drainage of polders is often problematic, causing water logging, leading to breaking of embankments by communities.

Two poldered areas in the coastal zone were visited by the project team to get a better impression of the issues faced in the coastal area, namely: operation and maintenance of the embankment (erosion) and sluice gates (siltation); access to adequate quality drinking water (arsenic in groundwater, pollution of ponds, salinization); drainage of polders when storm surge surpasses embankment level is often problematic; conflict between rice farmers (dependent on freshwater) and shrimp farmers (needing saltwater) as well as creditors for shrimp farming equipment; cyclone shelters are available for people, but their assets remain unprotected; and inheritance arrangements of land lead to unsustainable plot sizes.

A first draft of the pilot project has been developed by the Coordinating Committee in Bangladesh and outreach to financial partners has started. The APFM is requested to comment and provide intellectual backstopping.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Support to Workshop on “Strategies of Floodplain Economic Development in the Downstream of Yellow River”, 23 October, Zhengzhou City, China

This workshop was organized by GWP China, GWP Yellow River China and the Yellow River Conservancy Commission (YRCC). The organizers requested to the APFM through its HelpDesk to participate and share relevant experiences at the meeting. Two experts from the APFM's Support Base Partners, Professor Philippe Gourbesville of Polytech Nice Sophia, University Nice Sophia Antipolis and Dr LIU Zhiyu, Vice-president of the WMO Commis-

sion for Hydrology contributed for the APFM.

The workshop provided the opportunity to exchange concepts on the challenges of floodplain

management in the lower parts of the Yellow River basin. The field visit provided an excellent opportunity to witness the approaches developed by the YRCC for addressing both hydraulic processes and population safety with the involvement of local communities to ensure the development of a shared vision. The roundtable highlighted the need for additional effort to allow an integrated flood management approach for the lower part of the Yellow River. It was noted that similar meetings held regularly would support the on-going activities and would reinforce the promotion of the Integrated Flood Management concept for the whole basin and in the country.



Support to PRONACCH, 24-28 November, Mexico

Following the workshop on Integrated Flood Management held in May 2013 (see Newsletter No. 30) and the missions in September and December 2013 (see Newsletter No. 32), APFM was requested by CONAGUA to assess the advances in the implementation of the PRONACCH (Programa Nacional de Prevención contra Emergencias Hidráulicas), i.e. the national program of Mexico on prevention of water related emergencies. APFM therefore had an assessment mission to Mexico City in the last week of November 2014, together with Prof. Carlos Paoli from the National Water Institute of Argentina. During one week, it was possible to revise the PRONACCH Concept Document, as well as the 13 Prevention plans against hydraulic extremes for the 13 Hydrological Administrative Regions of CONAGUA. A series of interviews were also performed with relevant actors involved in the development and implementation of the PRONACCH activities, to identify gaps and propose activities in support of PRONACCH. During a final briefing with MSc Eng Horacio Rubio, Head of CONAGUA GASIR and in charge of the PRONACCH implementation, APFM offered assistance and expertise through its network of Support Base Partners, particularly in relation to the topic of vulnerability assessment.



PEARL - Preparing for Extreme And Rare events in coastal regions

Third Project Committee Meeting, 21-23 January, Hørsholm, Denmark

The Third PEARL project committee meeting was held on 21-23 January at Hørsholm, Denmark, where each Work Package leader and case study partner shared progress with the consortium. Participants were pleased to see that most areas were advancing well. Genoa, Italy has been proposed to host the next PEARL Project meeting, tentatively in June or July 2015.

For regular updates on the activities of the PEARL Project, follow it on social networks: Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.



Project outreach

PEARL and RISC-KIT joined hands to develop a Policy Brief on Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies in EU Coastal Areas. Published online in November, it describes the development of national and local strategies tailored on the historical and socio-cultural characteristics of the territories where they have to be implemented. The brief is available in English, French, Spanish, Dutch, German, Swedish and Bulgarian.

In addition to this, other outreach initiatives were undertaken in the last few months. On 1 December, Peter Fröhle and Natasa Manojlovic from the Technischen Universität Hamburg - Harburg (TUHH) presented the main objectives, current research activities and challenges



of the PEARL project at the DAAD Science Tour 2014 held in Hamburg.

Moreover, Marc Velasco from CETaqua provided an overview of the PEARL Project at the Second International Ocean Research Conference taking place on 17-21 November in Barcelona, Spain.

OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

AC/MC Meetings report 2014 available on the APFM website

As a follow-up to the last AC/MC Meetings, the APFM website now provides information on past APFM reports, allowing further transparency. The archive includes the AC/MC Meetings report 2014, as well as previous editions and documents regarding APFM's phases, Steering Committee reports and much more.

Direct links to the AC/MC Meetings report 2014 and the archive of reports are provided here:

AC/MC Meetings report 2014
Archive of reports

Contribution to the Eighth International Ecological Forum, 23-24 October, Vladivostok, Russia

The APFM contributed to the Eight International Ecological Forum organized by "Nature without Borders", which took place on 23-24 October in Vladivostok, Russia. Even though it was not possible to physically attend the Forum, the APFM presented a paper titled "Integrated Flood Management: a multidisciplinary approach to maximize net benefits from the use of floodplains", later published in the forum proceedings.



WMO Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services, 5-7 November, Geneva, Switzerland

Dealing with a sector where most of the professionals are men, it was a pleasant surprise to see so many women crowding the Council Hall of WMO's headquarters on 5-7 November 2014. Bringing together a varied range of professionals in the fields of climate change, gender equality, food security, disaster risk reduction, water resources management and public health, the Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services aimed to raise awareness and showcase good practices to empower women – as well as men – to produce, acquire and use such services. The rationale behind it was that efforts in this regard will lead to more informed decisions being taken and improved effectiveness of climate services.



The APFM supported the two Working Sessions entitled "Ensuring that Climate Information Reaches Women Users" and "Empowering Women to Participate in Water Science and Policy" and attended "High-level Plenary on Climate, Water and Gender Equality". The outcomes of the segments were extremely successful in contributing to the final Conference Statement. The working sessions identified the major issues concerning the topic and elaborated both general and specific recommendations to address them. The expected outcome of this exercise was not only to facilitate the incorporation of the conclusions into the daily practice of WMO and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, but also to make contributions to the post-2015 development agenda and Beijing + 20 commitments.

Preparation to WCDRR, March 2015, Sendai, Japan

The APFM is contributing to the preparation of the Working Session on Integrated Water Resources Assessment, part of the multi-



stakeholder segment of the approaching UNISDR World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The Working Session will take place at the Hagi Hall in Sendai, Japan, on Sunday 15 March starting from noon. Two presentations are planned, the first one on "Ingredients for successful national integrated flood and drought management – from policy to implementation", and the second "Best practices and lesson learned for Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction". These two presentations will be followed by a panel discussion with international experts, and a brief Question and Answer session. The Working Session will have an overall duration of one hour and a half. We look forward to meeting you in Sendai!

Second Transboundary Flood Management Workshop, 19-20 March 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

The second workshop on transboundary flood management will be held from 19-20 March 2015 at Geneva, Switzerland within the framework of the programme of work of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. The workshop will offer a platform to share experiences, good practices, challenges and lessons learned on issues such as sustainable flood risk management policies, institutional and legal arrangements for flood risk management in a transboundary context, flood forecasting, and flood risk mapping. The workshop will also reflect on the relevance of disaster risk reduction for transboundary flood risk management. The detailed provisional programme will be available in February 2015.



STAFF MOVEMENTS

Departure of Junior Professional Officer: Moritz Krüger

The three years-long journey of Junior Professional Officer seconded by the Government of Germany came to an end this December. During this period, Mr Krüger successfully supervised the development of the IFM Tool Series (especially with regard to the publication on flood risk mapping), led the Work Package 7 of the PEARL Project, gave his contribution to workshops on community based flood management, carried out the day-to-day operation of the HelpDesk, and implemented the APFM communication strategy. His next steps will take him to the Swiss Development Cooperation office in Bangkok, Thailand, where he will work on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. We wish him all the success in his future endeavours.



New intern: Ranila Rana

A new intern supported by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Carlo Schmidt Scholarship joined the APFM Technical Support Unit on 13 October 2014 for a period of six months. Ms Rana holds a MSc in Water Resource and Environmental Management from Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany. As a student, she was working on hydrological modelling as a research assistant. Prior to her masters, she worked in a bilateral project of the Governments of Nepal and Finland for 3 years in Nepal as Water Quality Monitoring Officer. She completed her undergraduate studies in Environmental Engineering from Kathmandu University, Nepal. Currently, she is involved in editing of the IFM tools, managing the social networking sites as well as other dissemination mechanisms of APFM and PEARL Project.

